

# PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

Multiple Antecedents and  
Outcomes of the Choice for Cremation

Final Report Submitted to  
NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTER

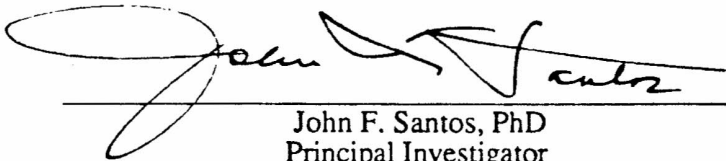
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## INTRODUCTION

Interest in all aspects of death and dying has been growing in recent years as evidenced by an increase in literature on the topic, the development of college courses in the area, more attention to the care of the dying and the bereaved, and coverage of death and dying issues in the popular media. (See, for example, Cohen, 1979; DeSpelder & Strickland, 1983; Krant, 1974; Peterson, 1980; Rando, 1984.) A more open discussion of death and dying should contribute to a healthier acceptance of the reality of death.

The United States has been characterized as a "death denying" society where there has been a movement away from family involvement with the necessary final arrangements when a death occurs (Kastenbaum & Aisenberg, 1976). In place of the family involvement of the past, there has been development of specialists, both in the medical and funeral professions, who take over for the family in the event of a death. These specialists often monitor the dying process, announce the death, arrange for the funeral, and prepare the body for disposition, leaving little opportunity for personal involvement in these activities on the part of close survivors.

There has been concern over the effects of such lack of participation in the final arrangements of the deceased by survivors (Cohen, 1979; Feifel, 1977). The importance of funeral preparations, various death rites and ceremonies, and particularly the method of disposition of the body in helping survivors accept the reality of death has long been recognized (Fulton, 1976; Irion, 1966; Pine, 1976). Archeological and anthropological research shows evidence that, even before recorded history, societies had developed very definite, and sometimes elaborate, procedures to deal with the disposition of their dead (Habenstein & Lamers, 1963). The funeral industry in America has been criticized for exploitation of the vulnerable consumer when elaborate and expensive funerals are marketed (Mitford, 1963), but there is also concern for the negative effects of eliminating the funeral as a social event and with the increasing deritualization of the death experience (Rando, 1984). There is some concern that the emergence of efficient, low-cost final arrangements, often involving immediate disposition of the body by cremation, without any kind of funeral service or ritualistic leave-taking, may result in a culture with even more harmful, death-denying ways (Casseem, 1976).

When there is a death, many decisions must be made, and often at a time of extreme emotional stress. It would seem that more open discussion of death and dying would benefit society by helping its members come to terms with the meaning of death and prepare for the inevitable experience of the loss of a loved one through death. The choice of burial or cremation as the method of body disposition could be less traumatic if that choice has been discussed before it has to be made by bereaved survivors.

In the United States, earth burial of the body is still the most prevalent method of body disposition, usually in a casket with the final destination a cemetery plot. However, cremation as a method of disposition has been slowly increasing (CANA, 1982). Almost 20 years ago, Irion discussed the choice for cremation as a method of body disposition, suggesting both advantages and disadvantages for survivors (Irion, 1968). Although cremation is gaining acceptance as a method of body disposition in America, relatively few contemporary studies have considered why cremation is chosen. Myths and stereotypes about cremation exist, but little research has been done in regard to outcomes once cremation, rather than the more traditional burial, has been chosen as a method of body disposition. In addition, little is known about how the uses of the available products and services offered by the funeral industry differ between the two methods of disposition. It would be beneficial for society in general, and mental health practitioners, clergy, and funeral professionals, in particular, to have more information about the many factors involved with cremation.

#### "Project Understanding"

"Project Understanding" was a national, mailed survey developed and implemented at the Center for Gerontological Education, Research, and Services (GERAS Center) at the University of Notre Dame which sought information which would contribute to a better understanding of cremation as the method of final disposition. The survey requested information from the next of kin of deceased individuals in order to increase the knowledge base relevant to the loss experience. The major objective of this survey was to obtain information about the multiple antecedents and outcomes of the choice for cremation from a nation-wide sample of survivors whose deceased loved one had been cremated. Obtaining information on a topic as sensitive as the death of a loved one is often difficult, requiring extensive sampling of the population in order to get a sufficient research sample (Bell, 1983). Since cremation is not as common as burial, it is more difficult to obtain a large number of subjects who have had experience with cremation as a method of final disposition.

Besides the difficulty in obtaining subjects for research on final arrangements, the mailed survey as a data gathering technique has its own set of limitations. While both of these types of limitations were recognized, the mailed survey approach was seen as the most economical technique for reaching the maximum number of potential survivors of deceased persons who had been cremated. The desired information included both factors that may be associated with and influence the choice of cremation, and also some measures of outcome variables for instances where cremation was employed as the method of disposition. The survey obtained information on economic, social, psychological and demographic factors from respondents from six metropolitan areas of the United States.

"Project Understanding" was funded by a grant from the National Research and Information Center (NRIC), an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to research concerning death, grief, and funeral service. The funds included contributions from the following eleven organizations interested in this research: American Cemetery Association, American Monument Association, Casket Manufacturers Association of America, Florist Transworld Delivery Association, Funeral Directors Services Association of Greater Chicago, Hilgenfeld Foundation, International Order of the Golden Rule, Monument Builders of North America, National Concrete Burial Vault Association, National Funeral Directors Association, and National Selected Morticians.

The present report includes a description of the procedures that were carried out in cooperation with NRIC which enabled the research to be done, the procedures and materials involved in the development and implementation of the survey, the results from the survey with appropriate statistical analyses, and a brief summary.

### Subject Selection

The selection of subjects was limited to survivors who had been identified as the next of kin, or the closest survivor of deceased persons. In order to minimize response biases or lack of participation, which might be more common if one were questioning a respondent directly about cremation, the survey was written within the context of seeking a better understanding of the loss experience in general. The entire questionnaire was developed using items which could be answered by all survivors, no matter what form of body disposition might have been carried out for their deceased loved one. A sample of questionnaires from survivors where burial had been the method of body disposition employed was also desired so that relevant comparisons between cremation and burial respondent groups could be made.

Since funding constraints set limitations on the available methods of data collection, NRIC cooperated with the researchers in obtaining the subject lists for this survey. It had been NRIC's experience that getting information from survivors of deceased persons who had been cremated was particularly difficult. Thus, it was agreed that this group of survivors would be sampled twice as frequently as the comparison group of survivors of deceased persons where interment was employed. Further, the funding agency and the researchers agreed that sampling for this survey would be most efficiently done within metropolitan areas. Since there is some evidence that the use of cremation shows regional differences (Marks & Calder, 1982), it was agreed that the sample for the present survey should contain survivors from different regions of the nation. A random or representative sample of survivors from the entire national population of survivors would have required substantially more funds than were available for the study. Available funding allowed for the sampling of 1,800 survivors involving 200 cremation subjects and 100 burial subjects, from each of six different metropolitan areas of the nation. The six areas that were included were: Phoenix, Arizona; San Diego, California; Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Kansas City, Missouri; and Seattle, Washington. While these areas do not constitute a comprehensive coverage of regional areas within the United States, they do represent fairly wide national coverage.

To obtain the subject lists of survivors who were contacted for the survey, NRIC first obtained the telephone directory yellow pages of the six metropolitan areas to be included. Cemetery/mortuary establishments and independent crematory establishments listed in the yellow pages were contacted and a request was made for participation in this project by contributing information from their client records. The letter requesting participation from the cemetery/mortuary establishments was signed by the Executive Vice President of the American Cemetery Association. The letter requesting participation of the independent crematories was signed by the Executive Director of the Cremation Association of North America.

The data sheets on which subject information was to be recorded were included with the letter of request. If there were 10 independent crematories listed in the yellow pages in a given area and all 10 were contacted, each crematory proprietor was asked to contribute data for 20 cremation cases, giving a total of 200 cremation cases for that area. A similar procedure was used in contacting cemetery/mortuary establishments. The sampling of many different funeral establishments was meant to facilitate participation in the study since no single establishment was asked to contribute a large number of subject names. In addition, the sampling across many establishments

within each area avoided any single establishment unduly influencing the results.

The data sheets, gold for cremation subjects and blue for burial subjects, required information about the next of kin and the deceased person. Copies of these data sheets are included in Appendix B. Participants were asked to contribute information from their records regarding deaths that occurred between June 1, 1983 and September 30, 1984. Participating cemetery/mortuary and crematory establishments were asked to return their completed data sheets to their respective associations and these, in turn, were periodically forwarded to NRIC. When the majority of data sheets were collected, they were forwarded to the researchers at the University of Notre Dame.

The one exception to this procedure involved the sample list from the Chicago metropolitan area. Since responses to the initial requests did not produce an adequate number of subjects from this area, additional requests for participation were made. A funeral home organization having a number of separate establishments in the area agreed to assist in obtaining additional subjects. However, this organization preferred to send a letter to potential subjects explaining the nature of the research and giving them an opportunity to telephone the establishment if they chose not to receive any information on the study. Letters were sent to potential subjects and some of these individuals did call in and request that they not be sent information. The additional subject lists from the Chicago area were obtained from these establishments.

In January, 1985, NRIC tallied the subject lists which had been received. Because the subject lists in some metropolitan areas were still considered inadequate, telephone calls were made to encourage additional participation. In April, 1985, the first subject lists which had been accumulated by NRIC were forwarded to the researchers. The contract start-up date was then set for May 1, 1985. Additional subject lists were received from NRIC in July and the additional Chicago area lists were received on September 28, 1985.

### Research Strategy

The final subject lists did not allow for the complete stratified sampling that was originally planned. However, since obtaining these lists represented time-bounded information and involved a good deal of effort on the part of NRIC, it was agreed that the project should proceed, altering the sampling strategy from selection of a sample balanced for subject and deceased variables, to one which made maximum use of the subject lists which had been made available.

The researchers found it necessary to exclude some of the individuals on the subject lists. There were 44 names on the lists where the information was

incomplete or subjects were considered inappropriate for the survey. For example, when the address of the next of kin or the age of the deceased was not listed, or when the person listed as next of kin for the deceased was an attorney, public administrator, or institution, instead of an individual who might have had some personal relationship with the deceased, the subject was not used.

The nature of the questionnaire items ruled out its use for younger adult or child deaths. Some contributors made the necessary age selection before submitting their lists and some did not. There were 89 cases where the deceased person was 30 years old or younger and was, therefore, eliminated. Subjects were considered to represent the region from which their names originated, regardless of their actual mailing address. Thus, the location where the final arrangements for the deceased were carried out defined the area in which the respondent was assigned, even when that was not the present location of the respondent's residence. There were 158 individuals on the lists who had addresses from areas other than from the area where the final arrangements were held. Once the final subject lists were obtained and the survey questionnaire approved, the questionnaires were mailed to all metropolitan areas at the same time.

## PROCEDURES

### The Survey Questionnaire

The materials and procedures for data collection in this mailed questionnaire survey were based, in part, on recommendations for the Total Design Method described by Dillman (1978). Throughout the project, an effort was made to obtain and make use of the most information possible from the maximum number of subjects. The questionnaire and the letters which were developed for this survey were designed to encourage subject participation by emphasizing the value of the respondent's contribution to a general study of the loss experience, rather than only asking direct questions about the subject's personal experience with the loss of a loved one.

The questionnaire developed for this survey was a 5 3/4 inch by 8 3/4 inch, 16-page booklet. The cover identified the booklet as PROJECT UNDERSTANDING, in blue lettering. The subtitle was, "A National Survey Dedicated to Developing a Better Understanding of the Loss Experience." The GERAS Center of the University of Notre Dame was identified as the origin of the questionnaire. The booklet was printed in black, 10 point font which maximized the amount of information which could be included while still being clearly legible. The questionnaire was professionally printed on white bond paper with a heavier cover of white vellum.

The inside cover contained general directions and each page had specific instructions for the items on that page. Respondents were invited to contact the researchers if there were any questions and a name and telephone number for such a contact was included in the questionnaire. The design of the booklet was intended to give the respondents the impression that it would not take very long to fill it out, even though there were 180 separate items to be completed. Appendix A includes a copy of the complete contents of the questionnaire booklet.

Preliminary copies of the questionnaire were evaluated by survey specialists and professional consultants familiar with research on death, grief and funeral services. Several recommended changes were made, including shortening the questionnaire, clarifying the wording of some items, and changing response formats for others. The questionnaire was pretested by sending it to several bereaved individuals who had agreed to fill it out and answer questions about the nature of the content and the clarity of items. Of particular concern was whether these pilot subjects would find any parts of the questionnaire inappropriate or offensive. Based on the pretesting responses,



the questionnaire was evaluated as a reasonable and inoffensive request for information.

Pretesting also established that the questionnaire could be completed in about 30 minutes. While there were no items that were considered inappropriate in the pretesting, there were items that one respondent chose not to answer for personal reasons. A few items were also judged to be unclear and their wording was modified on the basis of the pretest feedback. The final version of the questionnaire was submitted to representatives of the National Research and Information Center (NRIC), according to agreement between the researchers and the funding agency. A number of additional changes were requested by NRIC representatives and the final version of the questionnaire was approved on September 16, 1985.

The survey letters, also reviewed by a number of individuals, focused on the value of the respondents' contribution to an understanding of the loss experience and included a request that subjects return the blank questionnaire if they did not want to participate. The letters were printed on white bond computer stationery. The stationery had a PROJECT UNDERSTANDING blue letterhead which also included the GERAS Center's name and the University of Notre Dame address. Each letter was individually signed in contrasting ink. A microcomputer word processing program added the date, subject name and address, and salutation in the same font used to print the letters. This font was also used to print the names and addresses on white mailing labels with the matching blue "Project Understanding" letterhead information. Appendix B contains copies of the cover letter which accompanied the questionnaire, the one week follow-up letter, the one month follow-up letter, and the letter requesting additional information.

The questionnaire packet contained the questionnaire, a cover letter, and a printed self-addressed, individually stamped, white bond return envelope. The packet was mailed in a larger white bond, individually stamped envelope.

#### Subject Contacts and Return Rates

The questionnaire packet was mailed to 1,946 available, potential subjects on October 8, 1985. Follow-up reminder letters were sent one week later to all of the subjects, except for those who had already returned a questionnaire within the first week or in those instances where the packet had been returned as undeliverable. A month later, a second questionnaire packet with the second letter was sent out to 1,025 nonrespondents on the subject lists. Inquiries from subjects which were received by mail and telephone were processed individually and this produced additional returned



questionnaire data.

After initial evaluation, additional letters and duplicate questionnaire items were sent to 81 subjects whose responses were incomplete and who had indicated that they could be contacted for further information. Of these 81 subjects, 53 returned additional information. All questionnaire information which could be used was included in the data base, even when questionnaires contained unanswered items. A number of subjects notified the researchers that the follow-up letter, but not the questionnaire, had been forwarded to them and indicated a willingness to participate. Additional questionnaires were mailed to these subjects.

A total of 212, or 10.9% of the subject contacts, were determined to be undeliverable or inappropriate. Some envelopes were returned unopened or with written notations which indicated that the subject was not at the address and had no forwarding address. In some cases the persons contacted indicated they were not appropriate subjects because no death had occurred. Thus, there was a total of 1,732 subjects from the subjects lists who were considered as contacts from whom return rates for this survey were computed. Of the 1,734 contacts, 1,071 or 61.8% of the sample, responded in some form. Individuals who received the questionnaire, but declined to participate, were asked to return the blank questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. There were 352 questionnaires, or 20.3% of the total contacts, returned blank.

There were 719 entirely or predominately completed questionnaires that were returned. Of these, 16 were not used in the data analyses: 4 because they were filled out for multiple deaths and could not be scored, 3 because the death occurred years prior to the date requested, 4 because the deceased was younger than 30 years, and 5 because the respondents did not follow instructions and the majority of the questionnaire was unscorable. There were 703 usable questionnaires, 407 from the cremation group and 233 from the burial group, which constitute 40.5% of the subjects contacted. On the other hand, there were 663 individuals on the subject list, or 20% of the sample, that did not respond in any way to the survey materials. The results of "Project Understanding" are based on the information from 703 respondents and are presented in the following section.

## RESULTS

The results from "Project Understanding" provide information which can be useful in developing a better understanding of the many factors involved in the loss of a loved one through death when either cremation or burial has been chosen as the method of final disposition. The Results section begins with some general comments on the research strategy, the kind of data and statistics to be reported, and some precautions about interpreting the results. The survey findings are organized into subsections covering characteristics of the respondents, characteristics of the deceased, final arrangements carried out for the deceased, influences on these final arrangements, factors related to illness, planning, choice and remembrances, psychological factors, and the results from general information items about death and dying.

Some general comments regarding the survey results need to be made. The strategy employed in this survey was to maximize the use of all of the information that was obtained. A major objective was to obtain responses from a large sample of survivors of deceased persons who had been cremated. It had been the experience of other researchers that these survivors have been difficult ones from which to obtain information. Getting the lists of potential respondents from the six metropolitan areas was a formidable task and it was decided that all acceptable questionnaires would be included without attempting to balance the size of the samples from the different areas or from the different body disposition groups. As a result, sample size across the six metropolitan area groups will not be equal, just as the sample sizes for the two body disposition samples are not equal.

Another decision to increase the usage of the maximum amount of available survey data involved the problem of missing information. When questionnaires had some items that had not been completed, they were coded as missing data and the respondents were excluded as subjects only for the analyses on those specific items. The remainder of their responses, however, were utilized. Therefore, in many cases, the number of subjects in the analyses differ from the total number of respondents in the cremation and burial samples or metropolitan area groups. The number of respondents actually included in the analyses will be reported along with many of the statistical results.

The tables of data referred to in the results are presented in numerical order in a Tables section following the Results section. In many of these tables percentages, rather than frequency of responses, are given in order to allow for easy comparison

across the unequal sample sizes. When cremation and burial data are combined to give the Total Sample percentages or the (metropolitan) Area Total percentages, the resulting figures are weighted averages of the appropriate Cremation and Burial percentages. The weighted average takes into account the unequal sample sizes in the computation of the Area Total and the Total Sample percentage.

The statistical procedures employed in the survey will be described and, where appropriate, significance levels will be provided. In general, the statistical procedures are used to determine how likely the various obtained results might be expected to occur by chance. A finding with a probability of occurrence less than 5% of the time is considered to be statistically significant, and therefore not likely to be a result of chance. That is, results which are very unlikely to be due to chance are more likely to constitute dependable information about possible relationships among the variables that are being investigated. The statistical significance is reported in terms of the probability level of chance occurrence being less than 5%, 1%, or .1% with notations,  $p < .05$ ,  $p < .01$ , or  $p < .001$ , depending on the level of significance. It should be pointed out that when a large number of analyses are carried out, such as in the present study, it is likely that a small number of relationships that appear to be statistically significant may represent only chance findings and do not reflect valid or reliable relationships of interest.

### Survey Returns

Table 1. Table 1 gives the overall number of persons contacted and the number and percentage of returns for the chosen metropolitan areas, and for the cremation and burial samples from each metropolitan area. Twice as many cremation as burial subjects were sampled because the former was the group of primary interest in the study and it was felt that there was an established history of difficulty in securing information from such respondents. Actual experience as reflected in the results indicated there were no differences in the percentage of returns from these two samples. The two-to-one cremation over burial sampling resulted in a comparable, two-to-one return rate. There were 470 respondents in the cremation sample and 233 respondents in the burial sample. The combined sample groups showed a 40.5% return rate, which is relatively high for research of this type that deals with a highly sensitive topic.

Wording the questionnaire as an inquiry into the loss experience in general, and not about cremation in particular, appears to have been successful in obtaining as much information from cremation survivors as burial survivors. It is also likely that the Dillman TDM principles which were employed in the study contributed to the survey's

success. While a return rate of 40.5% is not as high as might be hoped for in the analyses of survey data, these responses from 470 individuals who have been involved with cremation does represent a fairly large sample. The return rates for the cremation groups ranged from 37.4% (Kansas City) to 43.9% (Chicago) while those for the burial group ranged from 32.6% (Chicago) to 51.1% (Seattle). It should be pointed out that the pattern of contacts and return rates, as well as the cremation to burial ratio, was fairly consistent over the six metropolitan areas.

The 470 cremation subjects represented 66.9% and the 233 burial subjects 33.1% of the total sample. Although the burial sample was only one-third the size of the cremation sample, comparisons and analyses can be made which take into account the difference in sample size. The data from the cremation samples, of course, might be somewhat more reliable than those from the burial samples because they are based on larger samples, especially for the metropolitan areas.

The 156 returns from the Phoenix area resulted in a somewhat larger area sample than the others; San Diego's 99 returns, and Kansas City's 100 returns are smaller samples, and the other three areas' samples are between these sizes. The strategy employed in the survey was to use all available data, rather than equalize the sample sizes across the six areas. However, many differences in results among the six metropolitan areas can still be assessed, especially for the larger cremation groups. In some cases, the sample groups were too small or the frequency of some responses were too low to meet all of the criteria which would allow statistical analyses to be carried out.

As expected, there were significantly more females than males among the subject lists identified as next of kin to the deceased persons, and there was a larger percentage of females than males who responded to the questionnaire. The total sample consisted of 496 female respondents (70.6% of the total sample) and 207 males (29.4% of the total sample). Table 1 shows that the percentage of returns for both the cremation and burial samples were approximately equal for female respondents (46.1% and 45.2%) and also for male respondents (31.7% and 32.0%). The difference in respondent gender is reflective of the fact that females live longer than males as well as the fact that females are more likely than males to participate in surveys. For example, one male who was contacted but declined to participate gave the questionnaire to a daughter to be filled out. When making use of these survey results, the fact that the data were obtained from a majority of female respondents should always be taken into consideration.

### Respondent Characteristics

This subsection includes information on respondent characteristics that was obtained by having each person check the most appropriate choice from different categories for each respondent variable. (See page 17 of Appendix A for a copy of the respondent information page.)

**Table 2.** The average age of the male and female respondents for each metropolitan area cremation and burial group, and each area total, are given in Table 2. It also gives the average male and female age for the total cremation and burial samples, and a weighted average for sample totals. The overall average age for male respondents was 60.0 years and for the female respondents, 58.7 years. The age of respondents ranged from 18 years to 90 years.

An analysis of variance (a statistical procedure which can evaluate the statistical significance of comparisons between subject groups when interval data are used) was carried out on respondent age for the factors of sex, type of body disposition, and metropolitan area. This analysis assessed whether or not there were significant age differences between males and females, between cremation and burial respondents, and among metropolitan areas. The analysis also assessed whether these factors produced any interactions. It found no statistically significant differences in respondent age for gender or body disposition group. There was a significant age effect for metropolitan area, however ( $F = 3.03, p < .01$ ). The overall average age of all respondents was 59.1 years. Average age was highest in Phoenix ( $M = 62.4$  years) and lowest in Kansas City ( $M = 56.5$  years). There were no interactions involving gender, body disposition group, or metropolitan area.

To investigate the relation between respondent age and body disposition group further, respondents were divided into age groups of 40 years and younger, 41 to 50 years, 51 to 60 years, 61 to 70 years, and 71 years and older. A statistical procedure, the  $t$  test, was then used to compare pairs of averages or means ( $M$ ). Average cremation respondent age was compared to average burial respondent age for each of the five age groups. These tests indicated a significant difference only for the 71 and older age group [ $t = 3.07, (N = 121), p < .01$ ]. For this oldest group, the mean age for the cremation group ( $M = 77.8$  for 88 respondents) was greater than that for the burial group ( $M = 75.8$  for 43 respondents).

Table 2 also gives the percent of respondents in each marital status category. The results indicate that 50.1% of the total sample of respondents are widowed and 35.4% are married. A chi square test was carried out on the frequencies to determine the independence of marital status and body disposition. The chi square statistic assesses whether there is a statistically significant relationship among variables when the

nominal level, or category data, is employed. The results obtained for this test indicated that respondents' inclusion in the cremation or burial sample was related to their marital status [ $\chi^2 = 8.34$ , (N = 695),  $p < .05$ ]. The percentages in Table 2 reflect the nature of the relationship. While the largest proportion of respondents in both samples are widowed, there was a higher proportion of married respondents (37.7%) in the cremation sample than in the burial sample (30.9%) and a lower proportion of widowed in the cremation sample (46.4%) than in the burial sample (57.5%). Also, a higher proportion of the cremation sample were single, divorced or separated.

The single, never married and divorced or separated categories each made up less than 8% of the total sample. These last two categories were combined in order to carry out additional chi square evaluations to assess the independence of marital status and metropolitan area in the returned questionnaires. The analyses were carried out on the cremation and burial area samples separately. The tests did not find significant differences, suggesting that marital status categories did not significantly differ among the metropolitan areas for either the cremation or burial groups.

**Table 3.** Table 3 contains the results related to respondent racial/ethnic group and shows that the respondents in the survey were almost entirely from the white population. Since almost 90% or more of every metropolitan area group was white, no further analyses of these data was reasonable. However, the results may reflect some sampling bias. Funeral establishments which serve the nonwhite populations may have been less likely to have been contacted, and if contacted, may have been more likely to decline the invitation to participate. Another possible bias could have resulted if nonwhite subjects who were contacted were less likely than whites to respond. Further research and improved sampling procedures will be required to investigate the nonwhite groups in regard to the choice of body disposition. It is important to remember that the data from the present survey reflect information from a white, metropolitan, and predominately female population.

**Table 4.** Table 4 gives the percent of respondents in each religious preference category. The results of the chi square test that was carried out on these data indicated that religious preference of the respondent and body disposition were not independent [ $\chi^2 = 19.59$ , (N = 691),  $p < .001$ ]. There was a smaller proportion of the total sample that were Catholics in the cremation sample than in the burial sample (18.1% vs. 29.2%) and a larger proportion of the total sample that were Protestants in the cremation as compared to the burial sample (63.4% vs. 56.2%). The Catholic Church has only officially accepted cremation in recent years so that these religious differences were not unexpected (Rando, 1984). Sixty-five Catholic respondents reported on the



cremation of their deceased. This may represent an increase in the acceptance of cremation by Catholics as one respondent noted: "...cremation was a departure from our Catholic background but his parents were cremated and we both liked the idea."

In order to carry out chi square analyses of religious preference and metropolitan area the infrequently chosen categories--Jewish, Other, and None--were combined. The analysis produced significant results only for the area burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 44.19$ , ( $N = 228$ ),  $p < .001$ ] suggesting some differences for the burial groups based on religious preference. The percentages in Table 4 show that the proportion of Catholics and Protestants in the area burial groups differ. The Chicago and Kansas City area burial groups have relatively more Catholics and fewer Protestants, a reversal of the pattern for the other groups. These results might indicate a sampling bias, but more likely they reflect a higher proportion of Catholics residing in these metropolitan areas.

Table 5. A measure of religious activity of the respondent was frequency of attendance at church or religious events and is given in Table 5. The chi square test of these results showed there was a relationship between religious activity and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 56.71$ , ( $N = 686$ ),  $p < .001$ ] with a higher proportion of individuals in the cremation sample showing less religious activity. That is, those respondents indicating the most religious activity were more likely to come from the burial sample. Combining the two categories with the lowest frequency of attendance showed that 50.4% of the respondents in the cremation sample indicated that they attended religious events six times or less a year, while only 27.9% of the burial respondents showed this low level of religious activity. Combining the two highest frequency categories reveals that 23% of the cremation sample and 42.9% of the burial sample reported attendance at religious activities one to two time a week or more. The small number of cases in some frequency categories makes the chi square assessment for religious activity and metropolitan area an invalid procedure for these data.

Table 6. Educational level, employment level, and family income are variables that are often related to each other. Respondents were asked about all three, and Tables 6, 7 and 8, respectively, give the results for these questions. Chi square analyses indicated that all three variables were related to body disposition. All of the respondents in the survey had some education, and 64.6% had some post-high school education. This represents a rather high education level, considering the average age of the respondents. Since understanding of the questionnaire and following instructions required some reading ability, this may have served as a selective factor for the survey respondents. Subjects with less education, and perhaps poorer reading ability, may have been less likely to participate in the survey. Perhaps, however, such

a selection bias would apply to both body disposition samples equally. The chi square which was obtained for educational level and body disposition indicated a significant relationship [ $\chi^2 = 34.40$ , (N = 697),  $p < .001$ ] with a greater proportion of respondents in the cremation sample having higher education levels (34% of the cremation sample but only 17.2% of the burial sample graduated from college).

Table 7. The chi square for employment level and body disposition was significant [ $\chi^2 = 18.24$ , (N = 693),  $p < .01$ ]. A greater proportion of cremation than burial respondents were in the highest level of employment, however, there were not proportional differences for the lower level employment categories.

Table 8. For family income and body disposition the obtained chi square was also significant [ $\chi^2 = 12.43$ , (N = 668),  $p < .05$ ] indicating that higher family income, particularly in the more than \$60,000/year category, tended to go along with the choice of cremation. These findings are consistent with others that more highly educated persons with higher levels of employment, and higher incomes, tend to choose cremation more frequently than burial (Bell, 1983). All three of these characteristics--education level, employment level, and family income--were unrelated to metropolitan area for the cremation respondents. While the results were also in this direction for burial respondents, the low frequencies limited the reliability of the burial analysis.

Table 9. Table 9 gives the percent of respondents in each residence status category: living alone, with spouse or other family, in group or shared residence, or other. The type of residence status of the respondent was not related to body disposition, suggesting that whether the respondent lived alone or with others did not affect the choice of body disposition for the deceased. An additional check on gender showed a higher percent of female than male respondents reported they lived alone (50.1% vs. 33.3%) and a higher percent of males reported living with spouse or family (59.4% vs. 41.9%).

Few cases in some of the residence status categories make chi square analysis for metropolitan area using all four categories inappropriate. However, when only the first two categories are considered, living alone or living with spouse/family, a chi square test can be justified for both body disposition samples. Such results showed a significant relationship between respondent residence status and area but only for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 15.97$ , (N = 217),  $p < .01$ ]. Referring to Table 9, it is evident that a much smaller proportion of burial respondents in San Diego lived alone, and a much smaller proportion of burial respondents in Phoenix lived with spouse or other family, compared to the other metropolitan areas. Though these findings may reflect sampling



biases, they well could indicate actual differences in residence characteristics among the particular metropolitan areas.

Table 10. The last variable to be considered in respect to respondent characteristics was the relationship of the deceased to the respondent. To make it clear what the correct response choice should be, this item asked the respondent to reply to the statement, "The deceased was my:..." They were to check the appropriate relationship. Table 10 contains the results which indicate that 50.5% of the respondents were reporting on the death of their spouses and 37.6% on the death of a parent. These two relationships made up 88.1% of the sample. The remaining, infrequently chosen categories of relationships were combined, and a chi square test indicated that the nature of the relationship of the respondent to the deceased was related to body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 10.71$ , (N = 703),  $p < .01$ ]. A slightly larger proportion of respondents in the burial sample reported that it was their spouse who had died (58.4%) than in the cremation sample (46.6%). These results suggest that cremation is somewhat less likely to be chosen when a spouse has died than when the deceased is otherwise related to the respondent.

The percentage of all respondents reporting on the death of a spouse (50.5%) is slightly higher than those who reported being widowed (50.1% from Table 2) because of the fact that some of the respondents had remarried. One such person who remarried after being a widower for nine months noted, "She was a great loss, I was very lonely...I'd have answered questions completely different before being remarried."

Chi square tests of the deceased-to-respondent relationship carried out with respect to metropolitan area, again combining the infrequently chosen categories, was significant only for the area cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 18.46$ , (N = 470),  $p < .05$ ]. Table 10 shows that the percentage of deceased spouses ranged from 31.3% (Kansas City) to 58.5% (Phoenix) and the percentage of deceased parents ranged from 32.9% (Chicago) to 51.6% (Kansas City). One strong effect to be noted is that the Kansas City area was the only one reporting a higher percentage of parents than spouses as the deceased person in the questionnaire.

#### Characteristics of the Deceased

In this subsection the characteristics of the deceased will be considered. This information was obtained by having the respondents fill out an information page on the deceased similar to the one required for themselves. Instructions indicated that when the respondent was not sure of category choice, they were to give their best guess.

(See page 18 of Appendix A for a copy of the deceased information page.)

**Table 11.** Table 11 gives the average age of the deceased for each sex, in each metropolitan area and for the two types of disposition. It is based on 389 males (249 from the cremation and 140 from the burial sample) and 314 females (221 from the cremation and 93 from the burial sample). An analysis of variance on the age of the deceased for the factors of sex, type of body disposition and metropolitan area showed that the average age of the deceased males ( $M = 68.8$ ) was several years younger than the average age of the deceased females ( $M = 76$ ) and that this difference was significant [ $F = 50.73, p < .001$ ]. This difference agrees with the established finding that males in our society tend to die at a younger age than females. There was no significant difference in the age of the deceased related to the method of body disposition, nor was there an interaction of sex and disposition. Analysis of variance also indicated no significant differences in age of the deceased among the six metropolitan areas nor was there a sex by area interaction. Thus, the finding of younger deceased males than females was consistent across all area groups.

The marital status for the deceased at the time of death is also given in Table 11. Just as with the findings which were obtained for respondent marital status, a significant chi square was obtained for the marital status of the deceased and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 13.97, (N = 694), p < .01$ ]. The results indicate that a smaller proportion of the deceased individuals in the cremation sample (53%) than in the burial sample (65.7%) were married at the time of death. No similar clearcut difference appears for those widowed at the time of death.

The single or never married and the divorced or separated categories were combined in order to carry out a chi square tests on deceased marital status and metropolitan area. These analyses indicated a significant finding only for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 19.81, (N = 462), p < .05$ ]. Table 11 shows that the strong pattern of more married than widowed deceased was not obtained in the San Diego and Kansas City area cremation groups which show closer to equal proportions of deceased in these two categories.

**Table 12.** Table 12 contains the results related to the racial or ethnic make up of the deceased group. The majority (94.7%) of the deceased were white, just as the majority of respondents were white. Again, since the numbers for minorities were too small, no further analyses were carried out. Thus, the results of this survey are based on a white majority of next of kin who are reporting on the loss of a white, deceased person.

Tables 13 & 14. Results regarding religious preference and religious activity of the deceased, given in Tables 13 and 14, showed patterns similar to those found for respondent characteristics. The results of the chi square tests that were carried out on these data indicated that religious preference of the deceased [ $\chi^2 = 17.60$ , (N = 693),  $p < .01$ ] and religious activity of the deceased [ $\chi^2 = 29.19$ , (N = 685),  $p < .001$ ] were both related to method of body disposition. Deceased persons who were Protestants or who had been less religiously active were somewhat more likely to be in the cremation sample. Deceased persons who were Catholic or who had been more religiously active were somewhat more likely to be in the burial sample.

The infrequently chosen categories of religious preference--Jewish, Other, and None--were combined so that the relationship of religious preference of the deceased and metropolitan area could be assessed. Results showed a significant relationship for both the cremation [ $\chi^2 = 32.15$ , (N = 462),  $p < .05$ ] and burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 50.51$ , (N = 231,  $p < .05$ ]. Hence, metropolitan area differences are present for deceased religious preference for both body disposition samples. Table 13 gives the variations in percentages of religious preference of the deceased for all of the metropolitan area groups. Religious activity and metropolitan area relationships were not statistically assessed for the deceased because of the small number of cases in some of the categories. Trends in these data, however, appear to occur as can be seen in Table 14.

Tables 15, 16, & 17. The findings related to education level, employment level, and family income of the deceased are reported in Tables 15, 16, and 17, respectively. Just as with the respondents, (compare Tables 6, 7, & 8) all of the deceased had at least some formal education, but their overall educational level was lower than it was for the respondents. For the deceased, 46.2% had some post-high school education as compared to 64.6% (see Table 6) of the respondents. This finding might be expected given that the respondents, on average, are younger than the deceased and younger people today, on average, have more education than older ones.

For the deceased, just as for the respondents, there was a significant chi square for both education level and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 26.99$ , (N = 701),  $p < .001$ ] and for employment level and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 17.94$ , (N = 690),  $p < .01$ ]. Thus, the deceased with the higher education and employment levels were more likely to be from the cremation sample. The chi square test for family income level of the deceased and method of body disposition approached, but did not reach, statistical significance [ $\chi^2 = 8.31$ , (N = 667),  $p < .08$ ]. Just as for the respondents, all three of these related variables showed no relation to metropolitan area, neither for the cremation groups nor for the burial groups. The burial group data here may be slightly less convincing

because of the small numbers of deceased in some of the area groups.

**Table 18.** Table 18 gives the percentage of deceased in each of the four last residence category choices: whether the deceased lived alone at the time of death, with spouse or family, in a group or nursing home, or in some other residence situation. In contrast to the respondents, here the last residence status of the deceased and body disposition were related [ $\chi^2 = 11.58$ , ( $N = 699$ ),  $p < .01$ ]. Although the majority of deceased lived with spouse or other family at the time of death (63.3% overall), a somewhat lower proportion of the cremation sample (59.1%) than the burial sample (71.7%) lived with a spouse or other family member. A higher proportion of the cremation sample than the burial sample lived alone (20.4% vs. 13.7%) or in a group or nursing home (16.4% vs. 12.0%). Respondent comments indicated that in some cases where the deceased did not live with family, the choice of cremation may have been made because of its convenience. For example, a nephew listed as next-of-kin noted, "...this was my aunt who lived in another state, we were not close but there were no other relatives, cremation took place and I did not need to attend any services." A daughter whose deceased father had been divorced and lived alone, explained "...he was an alcoholic. I was due to have a baby at any time and I feel this contributed to the type of arrangements (cremation) that we made for my father."

The chi square test carried out on last residence and metropolitan area shows significant results only for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 27.46$ , ( $N = 468$ ),  $p < .05$ ]. Reference to the individual area percentages in Table 18 shows that the San Diego cremation group had a higher than average proportion of deceased living alone and the Chicago area had a higher than average proportion of deceased living with spouse or family.

The last residence variable was also examined for the effect of the sex of the deceased. In contrast to the 51.0% of the female respondents who were living alone when they filled out the questionnaire, only 27.4% of the deceased females had been living alone just before death; 22.3% of the deceased females had lived in a group or nursing home and 46.5% had lived with a spouse or a family member just before death. For males, 33.3% of the respondents lived alone when they filled out the questionnaire, but only 10.8% of the deceased males had lived alone just before death; 9.0% of the deceased males had lived in a group or nursing home and 76.9% had lived with spouse or a family member just before death. This pattern of results was similar for both body disposition samples, just before death the majority (63.3%) of the deceased lived with a spouse or other family members.

### Occurrence of Final Arrangements

The survey obtained information about the occurrence of various final arrangements which had been carried out for the persons who had died. A 34-item check list, divided into three sections, instructed the respondents to mark ... "EVERY arrangement or request which you know, or believe, was carried out in regard to the person who died." (See page 5 of Appendix A for final arrangement check-list.) There were no restrictions on the number of items which could be marked. However when certain items were chosen, such as services held at a church, this suggested that certain other items, such as the one indicating that no services or ceremonies were held, should not be marked. Also, if either earth burial or above ground entombment were marked, none of the disposition of ashes items should have been marked. In the few cases where inconsistencies occurred for these items, information from other parts of the questionnaire or from the subject-list data was used to determine the appropriate coding of the inconsistent responses.

The findings from the 34-item check list of final arrangements are given in Tables 19 through 25. Once again, for easy comparison of the unequal sized cremation and burial samples, the percentage of respondents, rather than frequencies, are included in the tables. Chi square tests were carried out separately to assess the relationships between final arrangement items and body disposition and between these items and the metropolitan areas of the cremation and burial samples.

Since the final arrangements identified in this 34-item check list were coded either as occurring or not, and all of the respondents were either in the cremation or burial sample, there was no "missing data" category for these 34 items. Thus, the number of cases for all body disposition analyses was 703, the total number of respondents, and this number is not included in the individual chi square results reported. The Yates correction for a 2 x 2 chi square was used for these tests. For the metropolitan area analyses, the number of cases across all of the cremation groups was 470, and across all burial groups 233, the total number of respondents in each of the body disposition samples. These numbers were also omitted from the individual chi square reports. Thus the percentages given with respect to final arrangements in Tables 19 through 25 represent the proportion of times those particular final arrangements were checked in relation to the total number of respondents in each sample group. Items in these tables must be considered independently of each other and the summing of percentages across items in a table is not appropriate.

Tables 19 & 20. Table 19 and 20 give the results for final arrangement items involving services or ceremonies. The most frequently cited place of a service or

ceremony for the cremation sample was a funeral home (33.2%). A church was used in 29.8% of the cases, a memorial service at a later date in 18.7% , and no services were reported for 19.8% of the cremation sample. Only two place-of-service items, services or ceremonies at a cemetery or crematory chapel, and services or ceremonies at a private home, were not related to body disposition.

The burial sample reported use of the funeral home for services proportionately twice as often as the cremation sample (67% vs. 33.2%) and the chi square was significant [ $\chi^2 = 70.57, p < .001$ ]. For funeral home use, there was a significant relationship with metropolitan area for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 19.39, p < .01$ ] and for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 22.83, p < .001$ ]. Table 19 gives the area percentages which indicate that the San Diego area cremation group was much lower than average in use of a funeral home for services or ceremonies, and the Tampa and Chicago groups were somewhat higher than average. For the burial groups, the Tampa, Chicago, and Kansas City areas were all higher than average, whereas San Diego and Seattle were lower than average in this respect.

The use of a church for services or ceremonies was also lower for the cremation sample (29.8%) than for the burial sample (44.2%) and the chi square was significant [ $\chi^2 = 13.69, p < .001$ ]. Metropolitan area and the use of a church were significantly related for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 20.48, p < .001$ ] with San Diego, Tampa, and Seattle showing lower than average use of a church as compared to the other metropolitan areas.

There were no differences in the proportion of the two body disposition samples for the use of a chapel or of a private home. However, there was a significant relationship between the use of a chapel and the metropolitan area for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 22.74, p < .001$ ]. Table 19 indicates that there was a higher than average chapel use reported in Chicago. There was also a significant relationship between the use of a private home and metropolitan area for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 19.51, p < .01$ ]. The Seattle area respondents marked the use of a private home most often (19.7%) in comparison to cremation respondents from the other areas. In general, Seattle reports relatively more use of the private home (14.6%).

Services or ceremonies for the burial sample at graveside (66.1%) was over three times as prevalent as were services or ceremonies at the cremation site (21.9%); the obtained chi square was significant [ $\chi^2 = 129.20, p < .001$ ]. There was also a significant relationship between graveside services and metropolitan area for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 15.58, p < .05$ ] with graveside services being reported much less

frequently in the Chicago area than in the other areas.

The category of "Other" places was chosen infrequently by respondents (3.4%) but was chosen proportionately more often by the cremation respondents, (4.7% vs. 0.9%). The obtained chi square was significant [ $\chi^2 = 5.79, p < .05$ ]. Respondents' comments indicated that the category "Other" was chosen, for instance, when graveside services were carried out after cremation and the ashes were buried in a previous gravesite. No metropolitan area chi square analysis could be carried out for "Other" because of the low frequency of this response.

As Table 20 shows, method of body disposition was significantly related to holding memorial services at a later date [ $\chi^2 = 17.83, p < .001$ ] and to cases where no services were held [ $\chi^2 = 41.26, p < .001$ ]. There was a larger proportion of respondents in the cremation sample than in the burial sample reporting that memorial services were held at a later date (18.7% vs. 6.4%) or reporting that no services were held (19.8% vs. 1.7%). There were no significant relationships between either of these two arrangements and metropolitan area.

Table 21. Tables 21, 22, and 23 report the results for final arrangement items regarding various types of remembrances. Table 21 shows that 62.3% of the cremation respondents reported receipt of flowers from family in the final arrangements for the deceased and just over half (53.2%) received flowers from others. Requests that no flowers be sent was made in 26.6% of the cremation cases. Overall, these results indicate the use of flowers is not uncommon when cremation is the method of body disposition. However, there were significantly higher proportions of burial as compared to cremation respondents reporting the use of flowers: 93.6% reported having flowers from family [ $\chi^2 = 74.92, p < .001$ ] and 81.1% flowers from others [ $\chi^2 = 50.61, p < .001$ ]. The request for no flowers was more prevalent in the cremation sample (26.6%) than in the burial sample (11.6%) and the chi square was also significant [ $\chi^2 = 19.82, p < .001$ ].

Analyses of the use of flowers in the metropolitan areas for the two body disposition samples resulted in two significant findings. Flowers received from others varied significantly across areas in the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 13.00, p < .05$ ]. In Table 21 it may be seen that the San Diego area cremation group reported proportionately lower than average use of flowers from others. The request for no flowers was significantly related to metropolitan area for the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 14.21, p < .05$ ] with the San Diego, Tampa and Seattle areas showing very few or no cases where the request was made for no flowers.



Table 22. This table contains the results for questions that dealt with donations. The data show that a medical donation, such as to a heart fund or hospice program, was most frequent for the cremation sample (45.3%), with religious (28.3%) and community (25.5%) donations less frequently reported. For the burial sample, religious (39.1%) and medical (36.9%) donations made in the name of the deceased were more frequently reported than were community gifts (21.9%). Two-by-two chi square tests found a significant relationship between religious donations and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 7.816, p < .01$ ], and between medical donations and body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 4.17, p < .05$ ], but not for community donations and body disposition. Metropolitan area and religious donations for the burial groups were significantly related [ $\chi^2 = 11.82, p < .05$ ] with Table 22 indicating higher than average occurrence in the Chicago and Kansas City areas. For metropolitan area and community donations for the cremation groups, a significant relationship was also obtained [ $\chi^2 = 12.90, p < .05$ ] with lower than average occurrence reported in the San Diego and Chicago areas.

Table 23. This table includes the findings related to monuments or markers, memorial listings, and the category, other remembrances. The cremation sample indicated that the most frequent use of a monument or marker was at the place of disposition (41.7%) with very few instances of use at other locations (3.2%). There was no monument or marker used in 21.7% of the cremation cases, memorial listings were reported by 20.4%, and other remembrances of the deceased by 16.6% of the cremation sample. The use of a monument or marker at the place of disposition was significantly related to the method of body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 102.71, p < .001$ ] and was much higher for the burial sample (82.4%) than for the cremation sample (41.7%). For cases where no memorial monument or marker was used there was also a significant relationship to body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 49.50, p < .001$ ]; it was much higher for the cremation than the burial sample (21.7% vs. 2.1%). However, the lack of a monument or marker does not necessarily imply a lack of memorialization. As one cremation respondent noted, "...we decided his life and his children were the only real memorial we wanted to remember him by." But in other cases, it may. Another cremation respondent commented, "...a marker someplace would have satisfied, but nothing leaves a feeling of unfinished business." Metropolitan area was significantly related to the absence of a marker or monument for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 12.51, p < .05$ ]. Table 23 lists the the specific area percentages for this item.

Table 24. Table 24 contains the results for final arrangement items regarding



visiting, viewing and embalming of the body. Visiting and viewing of the body was indicated for 22.3% of the cremations, visiting without the body present for 10.9%, and private viewing only for 10.9% of the cremation cases. Social gatherings took place after body disposition in a somewhat higher proportion of the cremation cases (36.4%) than did viewing the body. Visiting with viewing of the body was related to body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 181.51, p < .001$ ] with a much larger proportion of the burial than the cremation sample indicating viewing of the body (75.5% vs. 22.3%). There were significant relationships for this visiting/viewing item and metropolitan area for both the cremation and burial samples. In the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 22.42, p < .001$ ] San Diego and Kansas City reported lower, and Chicago higher, than average occurrence of body viewing. For the burial groups [ $\chi^2 = 17.68, p < .05$ ] Chicago and Kansas City reported higher than average occurrence.

Having the body present without viewing (6.1%), visiting without the body being present (8.0%), and private viewing only (11.0%) were all infrequent responses for the cremation and burial samples combined. Among these, only private viewing was not related to method of body disposition. For body present without viewing, a "closed casket," a significant chi square was obtained [ $\chi^2 = 5.87, p < .05$ ] with a higher proportion of burial than cremation respondents indicating this type of viewing arrangement occurred (9.4% vs. 4.5%). A higher proportion of cremation than burial respondents reported visiting without the body being present (10.9 % vs. 2.1%) and the chi square was significant [ $\chi^2 = 14.94, p < .001$ ]. Although private viewing and body disposition were not related, there was a relationship between metropolitan area and this type of viewing arrangement for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 20.23, p < .001$ ]. Here, the Kansas City area reported a much higher than average occurrence of private viewing.

The proportion of respondents indicating the occurrence of social gatherings after disposition was related to body disposition [ $\chi^2 = 42.39, p < .001$ ]; it was much higher for the burial sample (62.7%) than for the cremation sample (36.4%). A relationship between metropolitan area and social gatherings was found for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 11.42, p < .05$ ]. The area variations for these gatherings are given in Table 24.

As would be expected, having the body of the deceased embalmed was over four times as prevalent for burials as it was for cremations (64.4% vs. 14.3%). As a result the obtained chi square was highly significant [ $\chi^2 = 181.05, p < .001$ ]. For the burial sample, the chi square indicated a significant relationship between embalming and metropolitan area [ $\chi^2 = 11.18, p < .05$ ]. Embalming was reported more frequently

than average in the Tampa and Kansas City areas.

**Table 25.** The types of final disposition within each of the two body disposition samples are summarized in Table 25. Above ground entombment was very infrequent--only 12 cases were reported in the total burial sample. For the cremation sample, the burial of ashes was the most common form of final disposition of remains (40.4% ). The strewing of ashes was next with 28.7%, while the depositing of ashes with the family occurred in 21.5% of the cases. It should be noted that respondents were not limited to marking only one method of disposition of ashes, and, in fact, a few marked more than one, so that the totals for the disposition of ashes exceed 100%. For example, there were instances where the ashes were given to the family but later strewn, in which cases respondents marked both categories. The use of a niche was reported for 16.8% of the cremation cases, and very few (3.8%) reported not claiming the ashes. Analyses between type of final disposition of ashes and metropolitan area indicated a significant relationship only for ashes to the family [ $\chi^2 = 12.09, p < .05$ ]. Here, the San Diego area reported a lower than average, and the Chicago area a higher than average, proportion of cases where the ashes were deposited with the family.

#### Influences on Final Arrangements

This survey obtained information from respondents regarding their assessment of the amount of influence that various factors had on the final arrangements for the deceased. Three pages of ratings from the survey were used to assess the influence of ten factors on three different aspects of the final arrangements: 1) type and place of services or ceremonies, 2) ways the deceased was remembered, and 3) method of body disposition. Respondents were asked to mark one of five columns, labeled with headings ranging from no influence to very much influence, that best described the amount of influence they thought the various factors had on the different aspects of the final arrangements. (See pages 6, 7, and 8 of Appendix A for these items.)

Each factor was rated for its influence on the three aspects of final arrangements with each item being scored from 1 to 5. Returned questionnaires had more missing or unscorable information on the influence check lists than on other items. In scoring these items, when contiguous items were marked, such as moderate influence and much influence, the higher value was scored. Where there were noncontiguous items marked, such as little and much influence, the item was considered unscorable. In many cases there were missing and multiple scored items together, suggesting that the respondent had lost his or her place on the check list. In such cases, accurate scoring could not be done and these items were coded as missing data. The pattern of missing

data was similar for the cremation and burial samples and ranged between 1% and 10% for the ten factors. The average influence scores which are reported for any one factor are based on the total number of respondent ratings which could be scored for that factor.

Tables 26 through 33 report the average influence scores of the ten factors on the three aspects of final arrangements and also combination scores that were the average of the influence scores for all three aspects. There are two tables for each aspect and for the combination scores. The first table includes the average rating scores, or mean scores ( $M$ ) for the total sample, the cremation sample, and the burial sample. Also given are the differences in average rating between the cremation and burial samples, as well as the  $t$  values and their significance levels for each of these differences. Average differences between the cremation and burial samples were assessed using the  $t$  test, with a significant result suggesting that the group difference was not likely to have occurred by chance. That is, there is a trustworthy difference in the scores of the two disposition groups.

Analyses of variance were carried out on the influence scores for the metropolitan area variable to assess differences among these areas. They were done for the cremation and the burial samples separately. A significant result here, which is reported as an  $F$  statistic, would suggest that the mean scores for that factor differ across the metropolitan areas to a degree that is greater than that expected by chance. Only the statistically significant results for these area analyses are reported.

Tables 26 & 27. Table 26 gives the results for the influence of the ten factors on the type and place of services and ceremonies for the deceased. Average influence scores for the total sample, the cremation and burial samples and their differences, and the  $t$  values and significance levels for tests of these differences are included.

The cremation respondents rated the preference of the deceased as the factor most influential on the type and place of the services and ceremonies held ( $M = 4.29$ ). Next highest was their own preference, which had a moderate influence on type and place of services or ceremonies ( $M = 3.44$ ). Religious tradition, family tradition, other family members, and keeping expenses low, all were within the little influence rating for the cremation sample ( $M = 2.27, 2.30, 2.34, \text{ and } 2.34$ , respectively). The influence of clergy or a religious counselor was slightly less influential ( $M = 1.82$ ). The average score for cause of death ( $M = 1.62$ ) and funeral home personnel ( $M = 1.59$ ) fell between little and no influence. Cemetery or crematory personnel were rated as having the least influence ( $M = 1.41$ ).

The burial respondents also rated the preference of deceased as being the most influential with respect to type and place of services or ceremonies ( $M = 3.89$ ) but they

reported a significantly lower influence for this factor than was the case for the cremation sample ( $M = 4.29$ ). For all other factors, the average influence scores for services/ceremonies were higher for the burial than for the cremation samples, and they were significantly higher for all except the cause of death and keeping expenses low. The burial sample respondents, on average, rated their own preference as having much influence on services/ceremonies ( $M = 3.81$ ) with religious tradition ( $M = 3.52$ ) and family tradition ( $M = 3.34$ ) being rated only slightly lower. Clergy or religious counselors and other family members were rated between little and moderately influential ( $M = 2.58$  and  $2.73$ ) with funeral home personnel and keeping expenses low being rated slightly lower ( $M = 2.29$  and  $2.48$ ). The lowest rated influence on type and place of services and ceremonies for the burial sample were cause of death and cemetery or crematory personnel ( $M = 1.81$  and  $1.89$ ).

Table 27 gives the influence scores on type and place of services or ceremonies for the six metropolitan areas. Analyses of variance of these influence scores for the metropolitan areas found significant differences among area means for only one situation: for keeping expenses low in the burial groups [ $F = 2.84, p < .05$ ]. The average influence scores for this factor ranged between 2.14 for the Phoenix area and 3.00 for the Tampa area. No other factor produced a significant  $F$  score for either the cremation or burial samples.

Tables 28 & 29. The average influence scores for the influence of the final arrangement factors on ways the deceased was remembered are given in Table 28. The average scores for the total sample, the cremation and burial samples, their differences,  $t$  values, and significance levels are given for each factor.

For the cremation sample, preference of the deceased was rated as the foremost influence on how the deceased was remembered ( $M = 3.67$ ). Respondent preference also was influential ( $M = 3.51$ ) with respect to remembrances. The cause of death, religious tradition, family tradition, clergy or religious counselors, other family members and keeping expenses low all fell within the lower range of influence ratings ( $M = 1.86, 2.12, 2.22, 1.73, 2.44$ , and  $1.97$ , respectively). Funeral home personnel and cemetery or crematory personnel were rated as having little or no influence on remembrances ( $M = 1.40$  and  $1.32$ ).

In contrast to the cremation sample, the burial respondents rated respondent preference ( $M = 3.55$ ) as having more influence on remembrances than preferences of the deceased ( $M = 3.24$ ). However, burial respondent preference was not significantly different from the cremation sample score for this factor ( $M = 3.51$ ) while preference of the deceased was rated significantly lower. All of the other factors had significantly higher influence scores for the burial than for the cremation sample.

Religious tradition ( $M = 3.20$ ), family tradition ( $M = 3.21$ ), and other family members ( $M = 2.84$ ) were rated within the moderately influential category and the other three factors were rated within the little influence range for remembrances.

There were significant differences among the metropolitan area means for remembrances reported in Table 29. For the cremation sample, preference of deceased varied across areas [ $F = 2.61, p < .05$ ] as did religious tradition [ $F = 2.67, p < .05$ ]. For the burial sample, ratings for funeral home personnel had significantly different means among the areas [ $F = 2.29, p < .05$ ]. Table 29 should be consulted for the actual means that were involved in these analyses. The variations in average influence scores for these factors may simply be the result of sampling differences, or they may reflect some real variability in the remembrance factors for the different areas.

Tables 30 & 31. The influence of the various factors on the method of body disposition was of primary concern in this survey. The results of the influence of the ten factors on method of disposition for the total sample, cremation and burial samples, differences,  $t$  values and significance levels are given in Table 30.

For the cremation sample, just as for type and place of services and ceremonies and for remembrances, the preference of the deceased was rated as being the most influential factor in choosing the method of body disposition ( $M = 4.37$ ). Respondent preference was rated next highest and as being moderately influential ( $M = 3.40$ ); family tradition ( $M = 1.89$ ), other family members ( $M = 2.09$ ), and keeping expenses low ( $M = 2.12$ ) were rated within the little influence range. The cause of death had even less influence on the method of body disposition ( $M = 1.58$ ). Religious tradition ( $M = 1.60$ ) and clergy or religious counselor ( $M = 1.46$ ) were also assigned lower ratings, while funeral home personnel ( $M = 1.34$ ) and cemetery or crematory personnel ( $M = 1.46$ ) were rated lowest, both within the no influence range.

For the burial sample, the same factors of deceased preference ( $M = 4.04$ ) and respondent preference ( $M = 3.70$ ) were rated as having the first and second most influential effects on the method of body disposition. Preference of the deceased was significantly lower, and respondent preference significantly higher for the burial than for the cremation sample. For burials, religious tradition, family tradition, and other family members were evaluated within the moderately influential range ( $M = 3.12, 3.36, \text{ and } 2.66$ , respectively); clergy or religious counselor and keeping expenses low were slightly lower ( $M = 2.11 \text{ and } 2.27$ ). Cause of death, funeral home personnel, and cemetery or crematory personnel were within the little influence range ( $M = 1.86, 1.88, \text{ and } 1.76$ , respectively). Except for preference of the deceased, all factors were rated as having more influence on method of body disposition by the burial respondents than by the cremation respondents. Only keeping expenses low did not

show a significant difference between these two groups.

The analysis of influence scores for the metropolitan areas which are presented in Table 31, showed that, for the cremation sample, the influence score for religious tradition on body disposition varied across areas [ $F = 2.35, p < .05$ ]. For the burial sample, the scores for clergy or religious counselor [ $F = 2.47, p < .05$ ] and for keeping expenses low [ $F = 2.37, p < .05$ ] varied across areas. Refer to Table 31 for the area variations in these average area scores.

Tables 32 & 33. A combined score was calculated by taking the average of the influence scores for the three aspects of final arrangements--influence on type and place of services or ceremonies, on ways the deceased was remembered, and on the method of body disposition. Table 32 gives these combined scores for the total sample and the cremation and burial samples. It also gives the sample differences along with their corresponding  $t$  values and significance levels. An examination of these results show they reflect the same patterns evident in the three individual aspects of final arrangements.

Overall, it is clear that for both the cremation and burial samples, preference of deceased was rated as being most influential and significantly more influential for the cremation ( $M = 4.12$ ) than for the burial sample ( $M = 3.99$ ). Respondent preference had the next highest influence on final arrangements for both body disposition samples, but is significantly more influential for the burial ( $M = 3.70$ ) than for the cremation sample ( $M = 3.46$ ). All other combined influence scores were significantly higher for the burial than for the cremation sample with the exception of the keeping expenses low item (see Table 32.)

Table 33 gives the metropolitan area average results for the combined influence scores. There were no significant differences among combined score averages for area for any of the ten final arrangement factors for either the cremation or the burial samples. This finding suggests that the combined influence scores might represent information that is relatively consistent over the six metropolitan areas.

#### Illness, Planning, Choice, and Remembrance

The survey obtained information about the length of illness of the deceased person before death, the cause of death, and where the death took place. These results are given in Tables 34, 35, and 36, respectively. The illness and place of death items occurred later in the questionnaire and the cause of death item was included on the deceased information page (see pages 15 and 18 of Appendix A).

Tables 34, 35, & 36. Neither the length of illness of the deceased nor the cause or place of death was related to body disposition. Table 34 shows that the proportions



of respondents in the five categories of length of illness were similar for the cremation and burial samples. For the total sample of the respondents, the death of the deceased was unexpected in 22.3% of the cases. Less than a week's illness prior to death was reported in 2.6%, and a week to a month in 7.4% of the cases. Another 18.2% of the respondents reported prior illness of the deceased lasted between 1 to 6 months and the largest proportion, 48.5%, reported that the deceased had been ill for more than six months before death. Thus, the majority of both the cremation and burial respondents had some time in which to anticipate the impending loss. The infrequently chosen categories made the analyses of metropolitan area inappropriate.

Table 35 gives the findings related to cause of death of the deceased. For both the cremation and burial samples, the most frequent causes of death were heart disorder (32.2% and 33.5%) or other physical disorders (31.1% and 29.6%). Cancer was next (23% and 25.8%), while accidents (3.2% and 0.9%) and suicides (1.5% and 0.9%) were very infrequent. This item resulted in a relatively high percentage of multiple responses (8.7%) where two or more of the possible choices were given. Using a combined infrequent response category including accidents and suicides, a chi square analysis indicated there was no relationship between cause of death and metropolitan area for either the cremation or the burial samples.

The place where the death actually occurred is reported in Table 36. Again, the proportions for the cremation and burial samples were very similar. For the total sample, 48.6% of the deaths occurred in a hospital, 27% in the home, 18.1% in a health center or nursing home, and 4.7% at "Other" locations. A significant chi square was obtained for the relationship between place of death and metropolitan area for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 37.66$ , ( $N = 464$ ),  $p < .001$ ] with relatively fewer than average deaths occurring in nursing homes in the San Diego and Tampa areas and slightly higher than average deaths in the hospital in the Chicago area. These results, however, are only suggestive because of the minimal numbers in some categories.

A chi square test applied to the two variables, length of illness and place of death, (omitting the low-frequency "Other" category) showed a significant relationship for both the cremation sample [ $\chi^2 = 63.78$ , ( $N = 438$ ),  $p < .001$ ] and for the burial sample [ $\chi^2 = 25.92$ , ( $N = 219$ ),  $p < .001$ ]. As one might expect, a higher than average proportion of unexpected deaths occurred in the home and a higher proportion of deaths after a six-month or longer illness occurred in nursing homes.

**Table 37.** Information was obtained in relation to the discussion of death and the planning of final arrangements. Respondents were first asked if they had ever discussed death and dying with the person who died. Later, they were asked whether

the deceased person had ever expressed a preference for cremation (see pages 4 and 15 of Appendix A). Table 37 gives the results for the two items. For the cremation sample, the majority of the respondents (72.3%) reported discussing death and dying with the deceased. For the burial sample, a somewhat smaller majority (64.8%) was reported. A significant chi square was obtained for the comparison between the cremation and burial samples for this item [ $\chi^2 = 4.42$ , (N = 697),  $p < .05$ ].

A large majority of the cremation respondents reported that the deceased had expressed a preference for cremation (87.4%) whereas only 6.4% had not done so. Only 5.1% of the respondents indicated that they did not know whether or not the deceased had ever expressed such a preference. There were 89.3% of the burial respondents who reported that the deceased had never expressed a preference for cremation whereas 4.7% reported a preference for cremation that had not been honored, and only 4.7% did not know if such a preference had been expressed. When the chi square test was applied to the results of this item, the outcome was highly significant [ $\chi^2 = 494.14$ , (N = 695),  $p < .001$ ]. Analyses of the two discussion items in respect to metropolitan area indicated no significant area variations among either of the body disposition groups.

Of the 487 respondents in both samples that reported they had discussed death and dying with the deceased (337 from the cremation sample and 150 from the burial sample), only 16 respondents indicated not knowing whether or not a preference for cremation had ever been expressed. These results suggest that method of body disposition is often included in discussions about death and dying. The length of time that the deceased person had been ill before death occurred (see Table 34) was not related to whether or not the respondent had discussed death and dying with them. This suggests that more than the time element in impending death is important in deciding whether or not the topic of death and dying will be discussed. As one respondent admitted, "...he was ill for so long, he may have wanted to discuss death, he did with our son, but I just couldn't bear it." Of the 214 cases where the deceased had been ill for over six months, 162 respondents (75.7%) had discussed death with the person who died. Such discussions also occurred in the 108 cases of unexpected death, where 74 respondents (68.5%) indicated they had discussed death and dying with the deceased. If the discussion of death and dying is taken as an indication of acceptance, rather than denial, of the reality of death, these results would not appear to support the common characterization of American society as "death denying."

Table 38. Table 38 includes data dealing with the preplanning of final arrangements. Respondents were asked if any arrangements for the deceased had been



contracted for before the death and if the deceased had made any prearrangements with a Memorial Society (see page 15 of Appendix A). Among the cremation respondents, 37.0% reported contracts had been made, and 11.9% reported prearrangements with a Memorial Society. For the burial respondents, a slightly higher percentage (40.8%) reported contracts were made, and 15.5% indicated prearrangements with a Memorial Society. Chi square analyses of these variables did not indicate any significant relationships, however. One respondent noted they didn't know what a Memorial Society was, but this was an exceptional response. The small frequency of responses did not allow for analysis relating these two planning factors and metropolitan area.

Of the 269 respondents who reported that contracts had been made before death occurred (174 from the cremation sample and 95 from the burial sample), only 81 respondents (30.1%) indicated that these prearrangements had been made with a Memorial Society. They involved 50 cremation cases and 31 burial cases.

Table 39. Respondents were asked two direct questions regarding their choice for cremation and the results obtained from these questions are given in Table 39 (see page 15 of Appendix A). One question asked, "If the decision could be made again, which method of disposition would you choose for the deceased?" The choices were burial, cremation, or body donation. The large majority of respondents chose the method of body disposition that had actually been carried out for the deceased, so that these choices were obviously not independent [ $\chi^2 = 531.07$ , ( $N = 687$ ),  $p < .001$ ]. For the cremation sample, 89.6% indicated a choice of cremation again, 5.5% reported that they would choose burial for the deceased, and 2.6% indicated body donation. For the burial sample, 92.3% reported that they would choose burial again for the deceased, only 3.4% would change their choice to cremation, with 2.1% changed to body donation. The infrequency for body donation choices prevented analyses by metropolitan area for either body disposition group.

The second question was, "If you were making advance arrangements for yourself, which method of body disposition would you choose?" For this item there were four choices: burial, cremation, body donation, or no preference--choice to be made by others. The majority of respondents chose for themselves that same method of body disposition that they had chosen for the deceased so that for the cremation sample, 66.6% chose cremation for themselves, 11.1% chose burial, 10.4% chose body donation, and 6.6% indicated that others could make the choice for them. For the burial sample, 70.8% of the respondents chose burial for themselves, 12.4% chose cremation, 7.3% chose body donation and 6.4% indicated that others could make the choice. Thus, it is evident that these two sets of choices are not independent of each

other [ $\chi^2 = 273.41$ , (N = 671),  $p < .001$ ]. The analyses by metropolitan area for the two questions revealed that, for both the cremation and burial group, the choice of body disposition was not related to area for either item.

Table 40. Table 40 gives the results of this survey with respect to body and organ donation and indicates that such donations were very infrequent for the deceased. There were only 5 instances of body donation in the cremation sample and only 1 in the burial sample that were reported on the final arrangement check list (see page 5 of Appendix A). Organ donations were reported by 24 cremation respondents and only 4 burial respondents [ $\chi^2 = 3.84$ , (N = 703),  $p < .05$ ].

A much higher proportion of respondents, however, reported a willingness to donate various organs of their own (see page 15 of Appendix A). The item, "would not donate organs," was related to of body disposition group [ $\chi^2 = 16.41$ , (N = 699),  $p < .001$ ]. In the cremation sample, about one third (30.4%) of the respondents indicated that they would not donate any of their organs and in the burial sample, almost one half (46.4%) of the respondents would not. Table 40 gives the results for body and organ donation and the percent of respondents who indicated particular organs that they would be willing to donate. The cremation group percentages are consistently higher than the burial group percentages for every organ that was listed.

Table 41. Questions were asked about place and possession of remembrances and these results are included in Table 41. Respondents were asked if they had a particular place they would go to remember the deceased and if they had a particular possession that they kept as a remembrance of the deceased (see page 4 of Appendix A). Since the gravesite is a traditional and logical place to go to remember a deceased person in our society, it was expected that a higher proportion of the burial sample would report having a special place of remembrance. The results confirmed that expectation in that 36.1% of the burial sample as compared to 24.7% of the cremation sample respondents reported that they did have a special place for remembrance of the deceased [ $\chi^2 = 9.38$ , (N = 697),  $p < .01$ ]. However, the majority of respondents from both groups (74.5% of the cremation and 63.1% of the burial sample) reported that they have no special place they go to remember the deceased.

In contrast to the findings with respect to place of remembrance, the majority of respondents from both groups reported having a particular possession that they keep as a remembrance of the deceased. For the cremation sample, 70.4% of the respondents had such a possession as did 73.4% of the burial sample. Analyses of the two variables--having a place and a possession of remembrance--indicated there was a significant relationship between them for both the cremation sample [ $\chi^2 = 27.25$ ,

( $N = 463$ ),  $p < .001$ ] and burial sample [ $\chi^2 = 20.20$ , ( $N = 230$ ),  $p < .001$ ]. Those who did report having a special place, were more likely to also have a special possession of remembrance. However, there were 123 cremation respondents and 53 burial respondents who reported having neither a place nor a possession for remembrance of the deceased. Having a place of remembrance was related to metropolitan area for the cremation groups [ $\chi^2 = 16.97$ , ( $N = 466$ ),  $p < .01$ ] as was having a possession of remembrance [ $\chi^2 = 12.48$ , ( $N = 465$ ),  $p < .01$ ]. (See Table 41 for these area percentages.)

### Psychological Factors

The survey requested information about a number of personal factors and reactions from the respondents in an attempt to assess certain psychological aspects of the loss experience and how they might be related to the choice for cremation. It is often difficult to obtain reliable or valid information on such personal factors with the use of a mailed survey approach because of a number of response biases which may be involved in sharing such information. It is also difficult to assess the degree to which respondents are reporting their true opinions or feelings.

Table 42. Table 42 gives the results of a closeness rating, a contact with others rating, and a self-adjustment rating (see page 4 of Appendix A). The closeness rating assessed the respondent's evaluation of his or her personal relationship with the deceased on a scale that varied from not close at all to extremely close, and that was scored from 1 to 5. For the cremation sample the rating results indicated that, on average, the respondent and deceased were perceived to be very close ( $M = 4.21$ ). Only 18 cremation respondents reported being not very, or not at all close to the deceased. For the burial sample, the respondents also rated themselves as being very close to the deceased ( $M = 4.33$ ) and only 8 respondents considered themselves not very, or not at all close to the deceased. The difference between these means, using a  $t$  test, was not significant. Since the majority of the respondents were spouses, children, or next of kin, it is not surprising that the closeness ratings were consistently high. Had other survivors been contacted, responses might well have been different. As one respondent pointed out: "If you asked my sister these same questions I know her answers would be very different." It would be interesting to investigate many of the survey variables for multiple survivors of a loss through death.

The contact rating is based on responses to the question, "Do you contact mutual friends and relatives more or less frequently now than you did before this person died?" The responses, rated from much less to much more, were also scored on a 1 to

5 scale. Both the cremation group and burial group respondents indicated that, on the average, they contacted friends and relatives at about the same frequency as before the death occurred. For the cremation sample the average rating was 2.94, with 26.4% of the respondents reporting less and 24.2% reporting more frequent contact with others. For the burial sample, the average rating was 2.85, with 21.5% of the respondents reporting less and 28.8% reporting more frequent contact with friends and relatives since the death occurred.

The self-adjustment to death question simply asked the respondents to give their opinion of their present adjustment to the death of the deceased person for which they were reporting. Self-adjustment ratings varied from very poor to very good and were scored 1 to 5. The cremation respondents indicated that their adjustment to the death was, on the average, good ( $M = 3.96$ ). The burial respondents also rated their adjustment to the death as good, ( $M = 3.68$ ) but this rating was significantly lower than for the cremation group [ $t = 3.47, p < .001$ ]. There were 21 cremation respondents who rated their adjustment to the death as less than adequate and 27 burial respondents who did the same. This represents only 48 respondents out of the total sample of 703 who considered themselves not well adjusted to the death and it constitutes too small a sample for further evaluation of factors related to this issue.

The analyses of the average ratings for each of the three variables--closeness, contact with others, and self-adjustment--over the six metropolitan areas indicated only one statistically significant result. For the burial groups, there was an area effect for the closeness rating [ $F = 4.02, p < .05$ ]. The average closeness rating for the burial groups ranged from 3.98 for Seattle to 4.66 for Phoenix.

Table 43. Another psychological variable that was investigated was the satisfaction with final arrangements. Table 43 gives the results for these measures based on a two-page check list where respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction level with ten aspects of the funeral arrangements for the deceased (see pages 9 and 10 of Appendix A). The procedure was similar to that for the influence ratings the respondents had previously completed. First, they rated their recalled satisfaction at the time the arrangement or activity occurred and then they rated their current satisfaction at the time that they filled out the survey form. The choices, from not at all satisfied to completely satisfied, were scored 1 to 5 like the other rating items.

By comparing the two satisfaction scores, it was hoped that it would be possible to obtain a measure of the change in satisfaction with final arrangements over time. The results indicate that both the cremation and burial respondents reported being very satisfied with every aspect of final arrangements at both time periods. The range of these high average satisfaction scores for both body disposition groups was from 3.99

to 4.55, and the individual change scores indicated virtually no change in the high satisfaction level with any aspect of final arrangements from the time of occurrence to the time of responding.

Since respondent satisfaction with cremation as a method of body disposition was of major interest, the results for that item will be considered further. The cremation group reported being very satisfied with their choice, both at the time of the arrangement ( $M = 4.42$ ) and at the time of responding ( $M = 4.42$ ). The distribution of scores for this item shows that only 8 respondents indicated they were not at all satisfied with cremation as a form of body disposition at the time of cremation, 7 were not very satisfied, 50 were moderately satisfied, 104 very satisfied, and 275 completely satisfied. Twenty six respondents did not answer this question or had unscorable responses. There was little change in the cremation sample distribution of scores for satisfaction over time. (For the current evaluation of satisfaction, 6 were not at all satisfied, 11 were not very satisfied, 53 were moderately satisfied, 96 were very satisfied and 279 were completely satisfied with cremation. There were 25 instances of missing data for satisfaction at the time of responding.)

Some caution is warranted with respect to response as well as sampling biases in these results which show such a high level of satisfaction with the method of body disposition. Respondents may be more likely to express satisfaction with something that cannot be changed, especially in regard to such a personal matter. It may be that individuals who were dissatisfied with a cremation which had already taken place might be less likely to participate in the survey. There is also the possibility that the satisfaction check-lists did not adequately measure true satisfaction levels. However, the results do show that all categories of choice were used by respondents so it is probably safe to assume that, for the respondents in this survey, there was a high satisfaction level with cremation as the method of body disposition. Many respondent comments independently support this conclusion.

Table 44. It is not surprising that given the obtained high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the final arrangements, the survey respondents also reported relatively high scores on a grief adjustment measure when recalling their feelings at the time of death (see page 13 of Appendix A) and on a grief resolution measure regarding their feelings at the time of responding (see page 14 of Appendix A). A very low level of depression was also reported by these respondents (see pages 11-13 of Appendix A). Table 44 gives the results of these psychological measures, as well as the time in months between the death of the deceased and time of responding. These measures were included in an attempt to assess any differences in the psychological variables as a function of the choice of cremation or burial as the method of body disposition.

The average time between the death of the deceased and the completion of the survey was 20.9 months, with a range of from 1 to 35.5 months. The average time lapse was 20.6 months for the cremation sample and 21.6 months for the burial sample. The difference between these values was not significant. There were 13 respondents who filled out the survey for deaths that were more recent than the death for which they had been contacted. There were significant area differences with respect to time lapse among metropolitan areas [ $F = 6.35, p < .001$ ] because not all subjects were identified during the same time period.

The grief adjustment measure and the grief resolution measure that were employed were based on selected items from the Texas Grief Inventory (Faschingbauer, DeVaul, & Zisook 1981). These measures required that the respondent indicate how true or false certain statements were with respect to the respondent's feelings. For grief adjustment around the time of death, the statements described common feelings associated with the death of a loved one, such as difficulty in sleeping, getting along with people, feeling angry, being able to work well, and maintaining interests. For the grief resolution measure the items included statements regarding feelings of anger, sadness, and acceptance. (See pages 13 and 14 of Appendix A for particular items.)

The grief adjustment scores at the time of death were based on 7 items and had a possible range in score from 7 to 35. The total group average grief adjustment score was 28.03, with an average score of 28.32 for cremation and 27.45 for burial respondents. There was not a significant difference between these average scores indicating no differences in grief adjustment as a function of the choice of cremation or burial. These scores were close to the upper end of the possible range of scores, and would appear to suggest adequate grief adjustment at the time of death. For grief resolution at the time of responding, there were 11 items with a possible range of from 11 to 55. The average grief resolution score for the total group (38.12) was also toward the upper end of the possible range of scores. Average scores of 39.06 for cremation and 36.22 for burial were obtained and the burial average was significantly lower [ $t = 3.28, p < .001$ ]. These average scores would appear to suggest adequate grief resolution. There were no significant differences in average grief adjustment or in grief resolution scores among the metropolitan areas.

The depression scores in this survey were based on 19 items from the Beck Depression Inventory, (Beck, 1978) and the obtained scores reflect a very low level of depression for both the cremation and burial groups. The range of possible scores was from 0 to 47, so that the average score of 5.44 for the cremation sample and 6.71 for the burial sample fall below 15 percent of the possible range of scores. There was a significant difference between these average scores [ $t = 2.26, p < .05$ ], even though



all scores reflected low levels of depression. The range of obtained scores was from 0 to 39 with 90% of the total sample having a score of 14 or less. There was no difference in depression scores among the metropolitan areas for either body disposition sample. (See pages 11-13 of Appendix A for particular items.)

The restricted ranges used by the respondents in their responses with respect to the three psychological variables make it difficult to detect any meaningful variation in subjective grief adjustment, grief resolution, or depression which might exist among the groups in this survey. However, statistical analyses of the relationships among these variables suggest that the three are related. The grief adjustment and grief resolution measures were positively correlated [ $r = .67, p < .001$ ] at a highly significant level. The depression score showed a significant negative correlation with both the grief adjustment scores [ $r = -.58, p < .001$ ] and with the grief resolution scores [ $r = -.59, p < .001$ ]. This indicates that, even for the restricted ranges of scores reported, as grief adjustment or grief resolution increased, depression decreased.

Some respondent comments suggested the presence of depression and poor grief resolution. Some examples are as follows: "...I cannot describe the utter despair that strikes me at times when I know that no one really and truly loves me anymore..." and "...I will never get over him. I will never stop crying..." and "...emotionally, I lost my concept of self-worth, independence, adequacy. I have to force myself to get out of bed in the morning... ." All three of these respondents had lower than average grief adjustment and resolution scores, and higher than average depression scores. These individual, anecdotal comments lend some degree of validity to the psychological measures employed in the survey.

The time between the death and survey responses did not correlate significantly with the grief adjustment, the grief resolution or the depression scores. Perhaps the long time from the death of the deceased to the time when the survey information was completed, although deemed necessary for a mail survey, passed the critical period when grief adjustment and resolution processes were measurable and only the end products were obtained. It appears that further research will be necessary in order to obtain more discriminating measures of these important psychological variables before they can be used in understanding or dealing with the many factors involved in the loss experience.

#### General Information on Death and Dying

Throughout the "Project Understanding" survey, there were items which respondents were asked to respond to in a general way rather than in a way based on



their experience of the loss of the deceased. The dual purpose of these questions was to obtain responses to certain relevant questions themselves and also to validate the stated purpose of the survey as seeking information that would help in understanding the loss experience in general. These general information questions were completed before requiring the respondent to give more specific, personal information.

Table 45. The first two items of the survey asked respondents to rate, on the basis of their opinion, how valuable it was to have more open discussion about death and dying in our society, and how valuable such discussion would be in preparing persons to cope with the loss of a loved one through death (see page 3 of Appendix A). The rating scale, which ranged from no value to very much value, was scored from 1 to 5. Table 45 gives the average value ratings in which both the cremation and burial respondents indicated that more open discussions about death and dying had much value ( $M = 4.12$  and  $3.96$ ). The cremation group average rating here was significantly higher than the burial average [ $t = 2.11, p < .05$ ]. The value of such discussion as preparation for loss through death was also rated as having much value for both samples ( $M = 4.03$  and  $3.90$ ) but this difference was not significant. There were no significant differences among metropolitan areas for these two items.

Table 46. Respondents were also asked whether they thought that terminally ill persons should be told that they are dying and whether they thought that it was good to encourage a terminally ill person to talk about dying (see page 3 of Appendix A). Table 46 gives the results and shows that the majority of respondents in both groups answered yes to these two items (70.6% and 63.2%) with about 20% responding that they did not know. Answers to these two questions about discussing death and dying with the terminally ill were related to body disposition. A higher proportion of respondents in the cremation than in the burial sample thought that terminally ill persons should be told they are dying [ $\chi^2 = 15.51, (N = 700), p < .001$ ] and that they should be encouraged to talk about dying [ $\chi^2 = 7.74, (N = 696), p < .05$ ]. There was no significant relationship between responses to either of these two questions and metropolitan area for either body disposition group.

Table 47. Table 47 gives the results obtained from another general item, "Which of the following talks about death and dying would you be most likely to attend? A talk on death and dying which was given by a: " The choices provided were funeral director, doctor/nurse, clergyman, counselor/social worker, and survivor (see page 3 of Appendix A). For this item, over 10% of the sample or 72 respondents either did not answer or gave multiple responses which were not scored. The responses to the item were related to body disposition group [ $\chi^2 = 18.67, (N = 631), p < .001$ ]. The

cremation group reported the highest proportion of responses (40%) for hearing a talk by a survivor. The next chosen were clergyman (18.7%), doctor/nurse (15.1%), counselor or socialworker (14.5%), and least likely a funeral director (1.3%). For the burial respondents, hearing a talk by a clergyman was the most frequent response (33%), a survivor was next (31.3%), then a doctor or nurse (12.4%), counselor or social worker (11.6) and, lastly, a funeral director (1.7%.) No metropolitan area relationships were evident.

Table 48. Near the end of the survey and just before filling out the respondent and deceased information pages, each person was asked if they would favor a public service that would assist people with final arrangements, if they would use such a service, and if they thought that it would be valuable for the public to have access to more information about the variety of final arrangements (see page 16 of Appendix A). Thus, the general purpose of the survey was again emphasized just before requesting the specific demographic information. Table 48 reports the results for these general questions. Fewer than half of the respondents (44.7% of the total sample) said that they favored such a public service, and a smaller percent (29.6%) reported that they would use such a service. A large majority of respondents (87.2%), however, said it would be valuable for the public to have more information about possible final arrangements. There were no relationships between these three general items and body disposition and no relationships for the metropolitan area groups.

Tables 49 & 50. In addition to the influence check list, which requested information specific to the respondent's experience with final arrangements for the deceased, a second check list was given to assess the general importance of some final arrangement factors (see page 16 of Appendix A). Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 8 factors in making final arrangements for a deceased person. Tables 49 and 50 report the results obtained from this check list. The categories, which ranged from not at all important to extremely important, were scored on a 1 to 5 basis and average importance scores were calculated. Table 49 gives these scores for the total sample and the cremation and burial groups, plus the cremation minus burial differences, and *t* values and the significance levels from evaluation of these differences.

For the cremation respondents, preference of the deceased was rated as extremely important ( $M = 4.58$ ) and preferences of close survivors was rated as very important ( $M = 3.54$ ). Cost of arrangements, convenience/efficiency of arrangements, appearance of the body at death, deterioration of the body after death, and concern for the use of land were all considered to be moderately important, ( $M = 3.29, 3.35, 2.60, 2.51, \text{ and } 2.58$ , respectively). The lowest rating was assigned to social/community

tradition ( $M = 1.96$ ), within the not very important range.

All of the average importance ratings, except for preference of the deceased, were higher for burial than cremation respondents, although this factor was also rated as very important ( $M = 4.27$ ) by burial respondents. Preference of close survivors, convenience/efficiency of arrangements, and appearance of body at death, were all also assigned to the very important range by burial respondents ( $M = 3.66, 3.64, \text{ and } 3.77$ , respectively). Cost of arrangements, deteriorating of body after death, and concern for use of land, were ranked in the moderately important range ( $M = 3.47, 3.33, \text{ and } 2.69$ , respectively). The lowest rating for burial respondents also was for social/community tradition, but this factor was rated significantly higher for the burial respondents ( $M = 2.52$ ), between not very and moderately important, than for the cremation respondents ( $M = 1.96$ ).

Only preferences of close survivors, cost of arrangements, and concern for use of land did not have significantly different average importance scores for the two groups. Burial respondents rated these final arrangement factors as being more important in making final arrangements than did the cremation respondents. Similarly, burial respondents also reported factors had more influence on final arrangements with respect to their specific experiences with the deceased (see Table 32).

The only importance factor that showed any significant relationship with metropolitan area was that for the preference of close survivors in the cremation groups [ $F = 2.96, p < .05$ ]. Table 50 shows that the average importance scores with respect to preference of survivors ranged from 3.18 (Tampa) to 3.83 (Seattle) for the cremation groups. Again, this may reflect either variation due to sampling or a true difference among the areas with regard to this factor.

The results from "Project Understanding" provide information concerning the loss of a loved one through death for a large number of survivors from six metropolitan areas. The majority of the sample was made up of white, female survivors of white, deceased persons. The survey included a larger group of survivors where cremation was the method of body disposition and a smaller group of survivors where burial was employed. The burial group included an adequate number of respondents for meaningful comparisons between disposition groups to be made. Further research will be necessary to expand knowledge of the loss experience by assessing the differences between male and female survivors, the responses of other racial or ethnic groups, and of nonmetropolitan residents. The next section of this report contains the tables; it is followed by a section that briefly summarizes the survey findings.

## TABLES

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TABLE 1

Number of Subject Contacts and Acceptable Survey Questionnaires  
Returned and Percent Returned From Male and Female Respondents

Area	Male Respondents			Female Respondents			Total Sample		
	Contacts	Returns	%	Contacts	Returns	%	Contacts	Returns	%
Phoenix									
Cremation:	118	30	25.4	164	76	46.3	282	106	37.6
Burial:	33	15	45.4	78	35	44.9	111	50	45.0
Area Total:	151	45	29.8	242	111	45.9	393	156	39.7
San Diego									
Cremation:	55	18	32.7	111	50	45.0	166	68	41.0
Burial:	35	10	28.6	59	21	35.6	94	31	33.0
Area Total:	90	28	31.0	170	71	41.8	260	99	38.1
Tampa									
Cremation:	65	26	40.0	116	51	44.0	181	77	42.5
Burial:	24	7	29.2	68	31	45.6	92	38	41.3
Area Total:	89	33	37.1	184	82	44.6	273	115	42.1
Chicago									
Cremation:	77	27	35.1	103	52	50.5	180	79	43.9
Burial:	35	8	22.8	60	23	38.3	95	31	32.6
Area Total:	112	35	31.2	163	75	46.0	275	110	40.0
Kansas City									
Cremation:	63	14	22.2	108	50	46.3	171	64	37.4
Burial:	34	12	35.3	54	24	44.4	88	36	40.9
Area Total:	97	26	26.8	162	74	45.7	259	100	38.6
Seattle									
Cremation:	79	30	38.0	103	46	44.7	182	76	41.8
Burial:	33	10	30.3	59	37	62.7	92	47	51.1
Area Total:	112	40	35.7	162	83	51.2	274	123	44.9
Cremation Total:	457	145	31.7	705	325	46.1	1162	470	40.4
Burial Total:	194	62	32.0	378	171	45.2	572	233	40.7
Total Sample:	651	207	31.8	1083	496	45.8	1734	703	40.5

TABLE 2

Average Age in Years of Male and Female Respondents and  
Percent of Respondents in Each Marital Status Category

Area	<u>Average Respondent Age in Years</u>		<u>Marital Status</u>			
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Widowed</u>	<u>Single, Never Married</u>	<u>Divorced or Separated</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	62.4	62.4	36.8	53.8	4.7	3.8
Burial:	66.4	60.6	24.0	64.0	2.0	6.0
Area Total:	63.7	61.8	32.7	57.1	3.8	4.5
San Diego						
Cremation:	63.9	56.1	35.3	45.6	13.2	4.4
Burial:	55.8	56.0	41.9	51.6	0.0	6.5
Area Total:	61.0	56.1	37.4	47.5	9.1	5.1
Tampa						
Cremation:	59.8	57.4	32.5	45.5	10.4	10.4
Burial:	60.6	61.2	26.3	57.9	7.9	5.3
Area Total:	59.9	58.8	30.4	49.6	9.6	8.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	56.1	58.7	36.7	51.9	7.6	2.5
Burial:	54.7	60.4	19.4	54.8	16.1	9.7
Area Total:	55.8	59.2	31.8	52.7	10.0	4.5
Kansas City						
Cremation:	51.6	58.7	46.9	37.5	4.7	10.9
Burial:	61.0	57.0	33.3	58.3	8.3	0.0
Area Total:	55.9	56.7	42.0	45.0	6.0	7.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	59.7	55.2	39.5	39.5	10.5	9.2
Burial:	66.4	61.0	40.4	55.3	2.1	2.1
Area Total:	61.4	57.8	39.8	45.5	7.3	6.5
Cremation Total:	59.3	58.2	37.7	46.4	8.3	6.6
Burial Total:	61.5	59.7	30.9	57.5	5.6	4.7
Total Sample:	60.0	58.7	35.4	50.1	7.4	6.0

Note. Percentages in this table are based on total number of respondents in each sample group and may not sum to 100% due to missing data and/or unscorable multiple responses. Percentages for Area Total and Total Sample are weighted averages. Number of respondents in each group is given in Table 1.

TABLE 3

Percent of Respondents in Each Racial/Ethnic  
Group for Total Metropolitan Area Samples

<u>Area</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Native American</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix:	95.5	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.9	0.6
San Diego:	92.9	1.0	3.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Tampa:	96.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chicago:	90.9	3.6	0.9	0.0	2.7	0.0
Kansas City:	99.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Seattle:	87.0	4.1	0.8	4.9	0.8	1.6
Total Sample:	93.6	1.6	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.4

Note. See Table 2 Note.



TABLE 4

Percent of Respondents in Each Religious Preference Category

<u>Area</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Protestant</u>	<u>Jewish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	16.0	63.2	0.9	6.6	10.4
Burial:	24.0	58.0	2.0	10.0	0.0
Area Total:	18.6	61.5	1.3	7.7	7.1
San Diego					
Cremation:	13.2	67.6	0.0	5.9	11.8
Burial:	22.6	64.5	3.2	3.2	6.5
Area Total:	16.2	66.7	1.0	5.1	10.1
Tampa					
Cremation:	16.9	70.1	2.6	3.9	5.2
Burial:	18.4	68.4	2.6	2.6	5.3
Area Total:	17.4	69.6	2.6	3.5	5.2
Chicago					
Cremation:	24.1	55.7	2.5	3.8	11.4
Burial:	61.3	29.0	0.0	6.5	3.2
Area Total:	34.5	48.2	1.8	4.5	9.1
Kansas City					
Cremation:	28.1	57.8	1.6	1.6	10.9
Burial:	52.8	47.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	37.0	54.0	1.0	1.0	7.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	11.8	65.8	2.6	13.2	6.6
Burial:	8.5	63.8	2.1	19.1	4.3
Area Total:	10.6	65.0	2.4	15.4	5.7
Cremation Total:	18.1	63.4	1.7	6.0	9.4
Burial Total:	29.2	56.2	1.7	7.7	3.0
Total Sample:	21.8	61.0	1.7	6.5	7.3

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 5

Percent of Respondents in Each Frequency of  
Attendance At Church/Religious Events Category

Area	Frequency of Attendance <sup>a</sup>					
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	3.8	20.8	19.8	8.5	7.5	34.9
Burial:	6.0	36.0	22.0	10.0	8.0	16.0
Area Total:	4.5	25.6	20.5	9.0	7.7	28.8
San Diego						
Cremation:	1.5	19.1	11.8	8.8	22.1	33.8
Burial:	16.1	12.9	19.4	6.5	6.5	35.5
Area Total:	6.1	17.2	14.1	8.1	17.2	34.3
Tampa						
Cremation:	2.6	23.4	16.9	15.6	10.4	29.9
Burial:	10.5	31.6	15.8	5.3	7.9	26.3
Area Total:	5.2	26.1	16.5	12.2	9.6	28.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	1.3	20.3	12.7	5.1	12.7	45.6
Burial:	19.4	25.8	19.4	9.7	9.7	9.7
Area Total:	6.4	21.8	14.5	6.4	11.8	35.5
Kansas City						
Cremation:	0.0	25.0	9.4	14.1	14.1	35.9
Burial:	19.4	44.4	16.7	8.3	5.6	5.6
Area Total:	7.0	32.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	25.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	2.6	17.1	13.2	7.9	15.8	43.4
Burial:	10.6	25.5	12.8	12.8	8.5	27.7
Area Total:	5.7	20.3	13.0	9.8	13.0	37.4
Cremation Total:	2.1	20.9	14.5	9.8	13.2	37.2
Burial Total:	12.9	30.0	17.6	9.0	7.7	20.2
Total Sample:	5.7	23.9	15.5	9.5	11.4	31.6

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup> Frequency of Church/Religious Events Attendance: 1 = more than 2 times a week, 2 = 1-2 times/week, 3 = 2-4 times/month, 4 = 6-10 times/year, 5 = 2-6 times/year, 6 = less than 2 times/year.

TABLE 6  
Percent of Respondents in Each Educational Level

Area	Educational Level <sup>a</sup>						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Phoenix							
Cremation:	0.9	3.8	26.4	12.3	16.0	9.4	30.2
Burial:	0.0	6.0	28.0	8.0	28.0	4.0	24.0
Area Total:	0.6	4.5	26.9	10.9	19.9	7.7	28.2
San Diego							
Cremation:	0.0	7.4	26.5	10.3	17.6	8.8	27.9
Burial:	6.5	6.5	35.5	9.7	22.6	6.5	12.9
Area Total:	2.0	7.1	29.3	10.1	19.2	8.1	23.2
Tampa							
Cremation:	0.0	5.2	27.3	7.8	11.7	10.4	36.4
Burial:	2.6	10.5	28.9	18.4	13.2	5.3	18.4
Area Total:	0.9	7.0	27.8	11.3	12.2	8.7	30.4
Chicago							
Cremation:	2.5	2.5	27.8	7.6	11.4	6.3	40.5
Burial:	3.2	22.6	35.5	9.7	12.9	0.0	16.1
Area Total:	2.7	8.2	30.0	8.2	11.8	4.5	33.6
Kansas City							
Cremation:	1.6	4.7	12.5	6.3	21.9	15.6	37.5
Burial:	0.0	5.6	33.3	8.3	19.4	11.1	22.2
Area Total:	1.0	5.0	20.0	7.0	21.0	14.0	32.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	0.0	3.9	18.4	11.8	22.4	10.5	32.9
Burial:	6.4	6.4	40.4	14.9	12.8	10.6	8.5
Area Total:	2.4	4.9	26.8	13.0	18.7	10.6	23.6
Cremation Total:	0.9	4.5	23.6	9.6	16.6	10.0	34.0
Burial Total:	3.0	9.0	33.5	11.6	18.5	6.4	17.2
Total Sample:	1.6	6.0	26.9	10.2	17.2	8.8	28.4

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup> Educational Level: 1 = none (no respondents), 2 = some grade school, 3 = some high school, 4 = high school graduate, 5 = trade/vocational school, 6 = up to 2 years college, 7 = over 2 years college, 8 = college graduate.

TABLE 7

## Percent of Respondents in Each Category of Last Regular Employment

Area	Last Regular Employment <sup>a</sup>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Phoenix							
Cremation:	31.1	17.0	16.0	7.5	0.9	19.8	6.6
Burial:	24.0	24.0	20.0	10.0	2.0	6.0	12.0
Area Total:	28.8	19.2	17.3	8.3	1.3	15.4	8.3
San Diego							
Cremation:	29.4	14.7	8.8	5.9	2.9	22.1	13.2
Burial:	22.6	12.9	16.1	16.1	3.2	19.4	9.7
Area Total:	27.3	14.1	11.1	9.1	3.0	21.2	12.1
Tampa							
Cremation:	31.2	20.8	15.6	3.9	2.6	11.7	13.0
Burial:	21.1	26.3	13.2	0.0	2.6	10.5	21.1
Area Total:	27.8	22.6	14.8	2.6	2.6	11.3	15.7
Chicago							
Cremation:	36.7	19.0	20.3	5.1	2.5	10.1	5.1
Burial:	16.1	12.9	12.9	12.9	9.7	22.6	12.9
Area Total:	30.9	17.3	18.2	7.3	4.5	13.6	7.3
Kansas City							
Cremation:	40.6	12.5	17.2	1.6	3.1	15.6	9.4
Burial:	25.0	27.8	25.0	5.6	0.0	11.1	5.6
Area Total:	35.0	18.0	20.0	3.0	2.0	14.0	8.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	35.5	14.5	15.8	7.9	2.6	17.1	5.3
Burial:	17.0	19.1	6.4	10.6	6.4	21.3	17.0
Area Total:	28.5	16.3	12.2	8.9	4.1	18.7	9.8
Cremation Total:	33.8	16.6	15.7	5.5	2.3	16.2	8.5
Burial Total:	21.0	21.0	15.5	9.0	3.9	14.6	13.3
Total Sample:	29.6	18.1	15.6	6.7	2.8	15.6	10.1

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup> Last Regular Employment: 1 = professional/educational/executive, 2 = supervisory/managerial, 3 = clerical/sales, 4 = technical/crafts, 5 = farm/factory/labor, 6 = homemaker, 7 = other.

TABLE 8

## Percent of Respondents in Each Estimated Family Income Category

Area	Estimated Family Income <sup>a</sup>				
	1	2	3	4	5
Phoenix					
Cremation:	17.9	19.8	33.0	15.1	7.5
Burial:	12.0	26.0	38.0	16.0	2.0
Area Total:	16.0	21.8	34.6	15.4	5.8
San Diego					
Cremation:	22.1	25.0	25.0	13.2	11.8
Burial:	29.0	22.6	29.0	9.7	3.2
Area Total:	24.2	24.2	26.3	12.1	9.1
Tampa					
Cremation:	10.4	22.1	37.7	13.0	9.1
Burial:	21.1	31.6	28.9	7.9	5.3
Area Total:	13.9	25.2	34.8	11.3	7.8
Chicago					
Cremation:	8.9	24.1	39.2	11.4	11.4
Burial:	19.4	29.0	32.3	6.5	3.2
Area Total:	11.8	25.5	37.3	10.0	9.1
Kansas City					
Cremation:	10.9	20.3	32.8	15.6	14.1
Burial:	5.6	33.3	44.4	13.9	2.8
Area Total:	9.0	25.0	37.0	15.0	10.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	10.5	23.7	44.7	13.2	6.6
Burial:	19.1	38.3	17.0	14.9	8.5
Area Total:	13.8	29.3	34.1	13.8	7.3
Cremation Total:	13.6	22.3	35.5	13.6	9.8
Burial Total:	17.2	30.5	31.3	12.0	4.3
Total Sample:	14.8	25.0	34.1	13.1	8.0

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup> Estimated Family Income: 1 = less than \$10,000/year, 2 = \$10,001 to \$20,000/ year, 3 = \$20,001 to \$40,000/year, 4 = \$40,001 to \$60,000/year, 5 = more than \$60,000/year.

TABLE 9

## Percent of Respondents in Each Present Residence Status

<u>Area</u>	<u>Alone</u>	<u>With Spouse or Other Family</u>	<u>In Group or Shared Residence</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix				
Cremation:	51.9	42.5	0.9	3.8
Burial:	62.0	24.0	2.0	8.0
Area Total:	55.1	36.5	1.3	5.1
San Diego				
Cremation:	39.7	50.0	2.9	5.9
Burial:	29.0	67.7	0.0	3.2
Area Total:	36.4	55.6	2.0	5.1
Tampa				
Cremation:	46.8	44.2	1.3	6.5
Burial:	52.6	42.1	0.0	2.6
Area Total:	48.7	43.5	0.9	5.2
Chicago				
Cremation:	44.3	53.2	1.3	0.0
Burial:	54.8	35.5	0.0	6.5
Area Total:	47.3	48.2	0.9	1.8
Kansas City				
Cremation:	39.1	56.3	1.6	3.1
Burial:	41.7	52.8	5.6	0.0
Area Total:	40.0	55.0	3.0	2.0
Seattle				
Cremation:	42.1	46.1	3.9	7.9
Burial:	42.6	55.3	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	42.3	49.6	2.4	4.9
Cremation Total:	44.7	48.1	1.9	4.5
Burial Total:	48.1	45.1	1.3	3.4
Total Sample:	45.8	47.1	1.7	4.1

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 10

Percent of Respondents in Each Deceased to Respondent Relationship Category

Area	<u>Deceased Relationship to the Respondent</u>						
	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Grand- parent</u>	<u>Other Relative</u>	<u>Friend</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix							
Cremation:	58.5	34.9	0.0	0.9	4.7	0.9	0.0
Burial:	68.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Area Total:	61.5	33.3	0.0	0.6	3.2	1.3	0.0
San Diego							
Cremation:	44.1	44.1	1.5	2.9	5.9	1.5	0.0
Burial:	54.8	32.3	0.0	3.2	9.7	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	47.5	40.4	1.0	3.0	7.1	1.0	0.0
Tampa							
Cremation:	48.1	36.4	2.6	2.6	10.4	0.0	0.0
Burial:	60.5	39.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	52.2	37.4	1.7	1.7	7.0	0.0	0.0
Chicago							
Cremation:	49.4	32.9	3.8	0.0	8.9	5.1	0.0
Burial:	48.4	38.7	0.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	3.2
Area Total:	49.1	34.5	2.7	0.0	9.1	3.6	0.9
Kansas City							
Cremation:	31.3	51.6	1.6	0.0	9.4	4.7	1.6
Burial:	55.6	27.8	5.6	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	40.0	43.0	3.0	0.0	10.0	3.0	1.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	40.8	40.8	6.6	1.3	10.5	0.0	0.0
Burial:	57.4	36.2	2.1	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	47.2	39.0	4.9	0.8	8.1	0.0	0.0
Cremation Total:	46.6	39.4	2.6	1.3	8.1	1.9	0.2
Burial Total:	58.4	33.9	1.3	0.4	5.2	0.4	0.4
Total Sample:	50.5	37.6	2.1	1.0	7.1	1.4	0.3

Note. See Table 2 Note.



TABLE 11

Average Age at Time of Death of Male and Female  
Deceased and Percent in Each Marital Status Category

Area	Average Deceased Age in Years		Marital Status			
	Males N = 389	Females N = 314	Married	Widowed	Single, Never Married	Divorced or Separated
Phoenix						
Cremation:	71.6	75.7	62.3	30.2	0.9	5.7
Burial:	66.9	76.2	74.0	18.0	0.0	6.0
Area Total:	70.1	75.9	66.0	26.3	0.6	5.8
San Diego						
Cremation:	69.5	76.3	41.2	33.8	1.5	17.6
Burial:	67.3	73.2	67.7	25.8	3.2	3.2
Area Total:	68.8	75.4	49.5	31.3	2.0	13.1
Tampa						
Cremation:	69.6	74.2	59.7	24.7	5.2	10.4
Burial:	70.8	77.2	65.8	28.9	0.0	5.3
Area Total:	70.1	74.9	61.7	26.1	3.5	8.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	65.5	72.6	57.0 *	26.6	6.3	8.9
Burial:	67.2	80.8	51.6	45.2	3.2	0.0
Area Total:	66.0	74.6	55.5	31.8	5.5	6.4
Kansas City						
Cremation:	70.1	79.0	39.1	40.6	6.3	12.5
Burial:	65.5	74.2	63.9	27.8	5.6	2.8
Area Total:	68.0	77.7	48.0	36.0	6.0	9.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	69.2	75.4	51.3	25.0	6.6	15.8
Burial:	68.1	80.0	66.0	23.4	0.0	10.6
Area Total:	68.8	77.1	56.9	24.4	4.1	13.8
Cremation Total:	69.4	75.5	53.0	29.8	4.3	11.3
Burial Total:	67.7	77.1	65.7	27.0	1.7	5.2
Total Sample:	68.8	76.0	57.2	28.9	3.4	9.2

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 12

Percent of Deceased in Each Racial/Ethnic  
Group for Total Metropolitan Area Samples

<u>Area</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Native American</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix:	96.2	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.9	0.6
San Diego:	92.9	1.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Tampa:	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chicago:	93.6	2.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0
Kansas City:	98.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Seattle:	87.8	3.3	0.8	4.9	0.8	1.6
Total Sample:	94.7	1.3	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.4

Note: See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 13

## Percent of Deceased in Each Religious Preference Category

<u>Area</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Protestant</u>	<u>Jewish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	11.3	67.9	0.0	7.5	12.3
Burial:	22.0	62.0	2.0	10.0	4.0
Area Total:	14.7	66.0	0.6	8.3	9.6
San Diego					
Cremation:	19.1	57.4	0.0	8.8	11.8
Burial:	22.6	67.7	3.2	3.2	3.2
Area Total:	20.2	60.6	1.0	7.1	9.1
Tampa					
Cremation:	23.4	70.1	0.0	1.3	5.2
Burial:	18.4	73.7	2.6	2.6	2.6
Area Total:	21.7	71.3	0.9	1.7	4.3
Chicago					
Cremation:	21.5	44.3	5.1	5.1	21.5
Burial:	64.5	25.8	0.0	0.0	9.7
Area Total:	33.6	39.1	3.6	3.6	18.2
Kansas City					
Cremation:	18.8	70.3	0.0	3.1	6.3
Burial:	52.8	38.9	0.0	0.0	5.6
Area Total:	31.0	59.0	0.0	2.0	6.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	9.2	61.8	2.6	11.8	11.8
Burial:	10.6	57.4	0.0	17.0	12.8
Area Total:	9.8	60.2	1.6	13.8	12.2
Cremation Total:	16.8	62.1	1.3	6.4	11.7
Burial Total:	29.6	55.4	1.3	6.4	6.4
Total Sample:	21.1	59.9	1.3	6.4	10.0

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 14  
Percent of Deceased in Each Frequency of  
Attendance At Church/Religious Events Category

Area	Frequency of Attendance <sup>a</sup>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <sup>b</sup>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	0.0	17.9	15.1	8.5	12.3	43.4
Burial:	2.0	32.0	22.0	6.0	18.0	20.0
Area Total:	0.6	22.4	17.3	7.7	14.1	35.9
San Diego						
Cremation:	1.5	16.2	16.2	5.9	17.6	39.7
Burial:	19.4	22.6	16.1	3.2	6.5	29.0
Area Total:	7.1	18.2	16.2	5.1	14.1	36.4
Tampa						
Cremation:	3.9	20.8	14.3	11.7	7.8	40.3
Burial:	5.3	13.2	15.8	5.3	13.2	44.7
Area Total:	4.3	18.3	14.8	9.6	9.6	41.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	2.5	10.1	10.1	6.3	16.5	49.4
Burial:	0.0	41.9	6.5	12.9	0.0	32.3
Area Total:	1.8	19.1	9.1	8.2	11.8	44.5
Kansas City						
Cremation:	7.8	9.4	15.6	10.9	15.6	37.5
Burial:	11.1	25.0	25.0	8.3	8.3	22.2
Area Total:	9.0	15.0	19.0	10.0	13.0	32.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	5.3	13.2	10.5	10.5	14.5	46.1
Burial:	10.6	21.3	17.0	12.8	4.3	29.8
Area Total:	7.3	16.3	13.0	11.4	10.6	39.8
Cremation Total:	3.2	14.9	13.6	8.9	13.8	43.0
Burial Total:	7.7	25.8	17.6	8.2	9.0	29.2
Total Sample:	4.7	18.5	14.9	8.7	12.2	38.4

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup>Frequency Attended Church/Religious Events: 1 = more than 2 times a week, 2 = 1-2 times/week, 3 = 2-4 times/month, 4 = 6-10 times/year, 5 = 2-6 times/year, 6 = less than 2 times/year.

<sup>b</sup>As a response check, these frequency categories were reversed in the questionnaire.

TABLE 15

## Percent of Deceased in Each Educational Level

Area	Educational Level <sup>a</sup>						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Phoenix							
Cremation:	6.6	10.4	32.1	8.5	14.2	7.5	20.8
Burial:	12.0	18.0	20.0	12.0	14.0	4.0	20.0
Area Total:	8.3	12.8	28.2	9.6	14.1	6.4	20.5
San Diego							
Cremation:	4.4	23.5	19.1	4.4	14.7	10.3	23.5
Burial:	9.7	25.8	35.5	3.2	6.5	6.5	12.9
Area Total:	6.1	24.2	24.2	4.0	12.1	9.1	20.2
Tampa							
Cremation:	3.9	11.7	31.2	16.9	13.0	5.2	18.2
Burial:	10.5	21.1	28.9	18.4	10.5	7.9	2.6
Area Total:	6.1	14.8	30.4	17.4	12.2	6.1	13.0
Chicago							
Cremation:	12.7	15.2	30.4	6.3	8.9	3.8	22.8
Burial:	12.9	38.7	29.0	9.7	3.2	0.0	6.5
Area Total:	12.7	21.8	30.0	7.3	7.3	2.7	18.2
Kansas City							
Cremation:	4.7	14.1	21.9	4.7	21.9	6.3	25.0
Burial:	19.4	5.6	36.1	16.7	5.6	2.8	13.9
Area Total:	10.0	11.0	27.0	9.0	16.0	5.0	21.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	6.6	13.2	30.3	11.8	14.5	9.2	14.5
Burial:	6.4	27.7	27.7	14.9	4.3	4.3	12.8
Area Total:	6.5	18.7	29.3	13.0	10.6	7.3	13.8
Cremation Total:	6.6	14.3	28.1	8.9	14.3	7.0	20.6
Burial Total:	11.6	22.3	28.8	12.9	7.7	4.3	12.0
Total Sample:	8.3	16.9	28.3	10.2	12.1	6.1	17.8

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup>Educational Level: 1 = none (no respondents), 2 = some grade school, 3 = some high school, 4 = high school graduate, 5 = trade/vocational school, 6 = up to 2 years college, 7 = over 2 years college, 8 = college graduate.

TABLE 16

Percent of Deceased in Each Category of Last Regular Employment

Area	Last Regular Employment <sup>a</sup>						
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Phoenix							
Cremation:	19.8	16.0	7.5	19.8	5.7	21.7	8.5
Burial:	16.0	22.0	4.0	14.0	6.0	22.0	12.0
Area Total:	18.6	17.9	6.4	17.9	5.8	21.8	9.6
San Diego							
Cremation:	20.6	17.6	8.8	10.3	5.9	25.0	11.8
Burial:	22.6	6.5	3.2	16.1	16.1	22.6	12.9
Area Total:	21.2	14.1	7.1	12.1	9.1	24.2	12.1
Tampa							
Cremation:	20.8	13.0	10.4	13.0	9.1	23.4	9.1
Burial:	13.2	23.7	15.8	13.2	10.5	13.2	5.3
Area Total:	18.3	16.5	12.2	13.0	9.6	20.0	7.8
Chicago							
Cremation:	29.1	11.4	16.5	8.9	3.8	21.5	7.6
Burial:	9.7	22.6	6.5	16.1	6.5	25.8	9.7
Area Total:	23.6	14.5	13.6	10.9	4.5	22.7	8.2
Kansas City							
Cremation:	26.6	10.9	18.8	3.1	1.6	18.8	18.8
Burial:	16.7	16.7	11.1	13.9	11.1	25.0	2.8
Area Total:	23.0	13.0	16.0	7.0	5.0	21.0	13.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	14.5	13.2	13.2	18.4	3.9	21.1	13.2
Burial:	8.5	19.1	6.4	14.9	12.8	29.8	6.4
Area Total:	12.2	15.4	10.6	17.1	7.3	24.4	10.6
Cremation Total:	21.7	13.8	12.1	13.0	5.1	21.9	11.1
Burial Total:	14.2	18.9	7.7	14.6	10.3	23.2	8.2
Total Sample:	19.2	15.5	10.7	13.5	6.8	22.3	10.1

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup>Last Regular Employment: 1 = professional/educational/executive, 2 = supervisory/managerial, 3 = clerical/sales, 4 = technical/crafts, 5 = farm/factory/labor, 6 = homemaker, 7 = other.

TABLE 17

## Percent of Deceased in Each Estimated Family Income Category

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated Family Income<sup>a</sup></u>				
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	18.9	31.1	30.2	7.5	5.7
Burial:	12.0	36.0	38.0	8.0	2.0
Area Total:	16.7	32.7	32.7	7.7	4.5
San Diego					
Cremation:	26.5	36.8	23.5	7.4	2.9
Burial:	41.9	25.8	19.4	0.0	6.5
Area Total:	31.3	33.3	22.2	5.1	4.0
Tampa					
Cremation:	22.1	37.7	20.8	7.8	2.6
Burial:	28.9	28.9	28.9	7.9	0.0
Area Total:	24.3	34.8	23.5	7.8	1.7
Chicago					
Cremation:	15.2	25.3	26.6	16.5	10.1
Burial:	32.3	38.7	16.1	6.5	0.0
Area Total:	20.0	29.1	23.6	13.6	7.3
Kansas City					
Cremation:	25.0	26.6	25.0	7.8	9.4
Burial:	16.7	36.1	33.3	8.3	5.6
Area Total:	22.0	30.0	28.0	8.0	8.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	21.1	35.5	26.3	11.8	2.6
Burial:	34.0	34.0	23.4	6.4	0.0
Area Total:	26.0	35.0	25.2	9.8	1.6
Cremation Total:	21.1	32.1	25.7	9.8	5.5
Burial Total:	26.6	33.5	27.5	6.4	2.1
Total Sample:	22.9	32.6	26.3	8.7	4.4

Note. See Table 2 Note.

<sup>a</sup>Estimated Family Income: 1 = less than \$10,000/year, 2 = \$10,001 to \$20,000/year, 3 = \$20,001 to \$40,000/year, 4 = \$40,001 to \$60,000/year, 5 = more than \$60,000/year.



TABLE 18

## Percent of Deceased in Each Last Residence Status

<u>Area</u>	<u>Alone</u>	<u>With Spouse or Other Family</u>	<u>In Group or Nursing Home</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix				
Cremation:	16.0	58.5	20.8	3.8
Burial:	12.0	80.0	6.0	2.0
Area Total:	14.7	65.4	16.0	3.2
San Diego				
Cremation:	30.9	54.4	11.8	2.9
Burial:	22.6	71.0	6.5	0.0
Area Total:	28.3	59.6	10.1	2.0
Tampa				
Cremation:	14.3	63.6	13.0	9.1
Burial:	7.9	71.1	13.2	5.3
Area Total:	12.2	66.1	13.0	7.8
Chicago				
Cremation:	16.5	70.9	10.1	2.5
Burial:	19.4	67.7	9.7	3.2
Area Total:	17.3	70.0	10.0	2.7
Kansas City				
Cremation:	23.4	48.4	25.0	1.6
Burial:	19.4	61.1	16.7	0.0
Area Total:	22.0	53.0	22.0	1.0
Seattle				
Cremation:	25.0	56.6	17.1	1.3
Burial:	6.4	74.5	19.1	0.0
Area Total:	17.9	63.4	17.9	0.8
Cremation Total:	20.4	59.1	16.4	3.6
Burial Total:	13.7	71.7	12.0	1.7
Total Sample:	18.2	63.3	14.9	3.0

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 19

Percent of Respondents Reporting Places Where  
Services or Ceremonies For the Deceased Were Held

Area	<u>Place of Services or Ceremonies</u>					
	<u>Funeral Home</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Chapel at Cemetery or Crematory</u>	<u>Graveside or at Cremation</u>	<u>Private Home</u>	<u>Other</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	34.9	23.6	10.4	18.9	2.8	6.6
Burial:	68.0	50.0	12.0	60.0	2.0	0.0
Area Total:	45.5	32.1	10.9	32.1	2.6	4.5
San Diego						
Cremation:	11.8	33.8	14.7	16.2	7.4	5.9
Burial:	54.8	35.5	6.5	77.4	6.5	0.0
Area Total:	25.3	34.3	12.1	35.4	7.1	4.0
Tampa						
Cremation:	41.6	33.8	11.7	26.0	5.2	2.6
Burial:	76.3	21.1	5.3	73.7	0.0	0.0
Area Total:	53.0	29.6	9.6	41.7	3.5	1.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	40.5	30.4	17.7	16.5	6.3	6.3
Burial:	90.3	64.5	41.9	38.7	3.2	0.0
Area Total:	54.5	40.0	24.5	22.7	5.5	4.5
Kansas City						
Cremation:	37.5	28.1	6.3	34.4	7.8	0.0
Burial:	75.0	61.1	19.4	75.0	8.3	0.0
Area Total:	51.0	40.0	11.0	49.0	8.0	0.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	30.3	31.6	14.5	22.4	19.7	5.3
Burial:	44.7	36.2	12.8	70.2	6.4	4.3
Area Total:	35.8	33.3	13.8	40.7	14.6	4.9
Cremation Total:	33.2	29.8	12.6	21.9	7.9	4.7
Burial Total:	67.0	44.2	15.5	66.1	4.3	0.9
Total Sample:	44.4	34.6	13.5	36.6	6.7	3.4

Note. The percentages in this table are based on the frequency each arrangement was selected in relation to the total number of respondents in the sample group. Respondents could select any combination of arrangements so the sum of percentages across columns may exceed 100%. Percentages for Area Total and Total Sample are weighted averages. Number of respondents in each group is given in Table 1.

TABLE 20

Percent of Respondents Indicating Memorial Service For Deceased  
Was Held at Later Date or No Services or Ceremonies Were Held

<u>Area</u>	<u>Memorial Service Later Date</u>	<u>No Services Held</u>
Phoenix		
Cremation:	21.7	22.6
Burial:	0.0	2.0
Area Total:	14.7	16.0
San Diego		
Cremation:	22.1	27.9
Burial:	12.9	0.0
Area Total:	19.2	19.2
Tampa		
Cremation:	15.6	13.0
Burial:	2.6	0.0
Area Total:	11.3	8.7
Chicago		
Cremation:	20.3	22.8
Burial:	12.9	0.0
Area Total:	18.2	16.4
Kansas City		
Cremation:	12.5	10.9
Burial:	5.6	2.8
Area Total:	10.0	8.0
Seattle		
Cremation:	18.4	19.7
Burial:	8.5	4.3
Area Total:	14.6	13.8
Cremation Total:	18.7	19.8
Burial Total:	6.4	1.7
Total Sample:	14.7	13.8

Note. See Table 19 Note.

TABLE 21

Percent of Respondents Indicating Use of Flowers as a Remembrance of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Flowers From Family</u>	<u>Flowers From Others</u>	<u>Requested No Flowers</u>
Phoenix			
Cremation:	65.1	58.5	25.5
Burial:	92.0	80.0	16.0
Area Total:	73.7	65.4	22.4
San Diego			
Cremation:	54.4	38.2	29.4
Burial:	93.5	83.9	6.5
Area Total:	66.7	52.5	22.2
Tampa			
Cremation:	62.3	58.4	29.9
Burial:	94.7	76.3	7.9
Area Total:	73.0	64.3	22.6
Chicago			
Cremation:	62.0	44.3	25.3
Burial:	96.8	71.0	19.4
Area Total:	71.8	51.8	23.6
Kansas City			
Cremation:	67.2	54.7	37.5
Burial:	94.4	91.7	22.2
Area Total:	77.0	68.0	32.0
Seattle			
Cremation:	61.8	61.8	14.5
Burial:	91.5	83.0	0.0
Area Total:	73.2	69.9	8.9
Cremation Total:	62.3	53.2	26.6
Burial Total:	93.6	81.1	11.6
Total Sample:	72.7	62.4	21.6

Note. See Table 19 Note.

TABLE 22

Percent of Respondents Indicating the Use of  
Donations as a Remembrance of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Religious Donation</u>	<u>Medical Donation</u>	<u>Community Donation</u>
Phoenix			
Cremation:	24.5	47.2	20.8
Burial:	38.0	46.0	24.0
Area Total:	28.8	46.8	21.8
San Diego			
Cremation:	23.5	47.1	20.6
Burial:	29.0	25.8	12.9
Area Total:	25.3	40.4	18.2
Tampa			
Cremation:	32.5	40.3	20.8
Burial:	34.2	26.3	23.7
Area Total:	33.0	35.7	21.7
Chicago			
Cremation:	25.3	40.5	21.5
Burial:	58.1	25.8	16.1
Area Total:	34.5	36.4	20.0
Kansas City			
Cremation:	37.5	46.9	39.1
Burial:	52.8	41.7	27.8
Area Total:	43.0	45.0	35.0
Seattle			
Cremation:	28.9	50.0	34.2
Burial:	27.7	46.8	23.4
Area Total:	28.5	48.8	30.1
Cremation Total:	28.3	45.3	25.5
Burial Total:	39.1	36.9	21.9
Total Sample:	31.9	42.5	24.3

Note. See Table 19 Note.

TABLE 23

Percent of Respondents Indicating Use of a Monument, Marker,  
Memorial Listing, and Other Remembrances of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Monument/Marker Place of Disposition</u>	<u>Monument/Marker Other Location</u>	<u>No Monument/ Marker Used</u>	<u>Memorial Listing</u>	<u>Other Remembrance</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	34.9	1.9	28.3	21.7	17.9
Burial:	78.0	2.0	2.0	18.0	20.0
Area Total:	48.7	1.9	19.9	20.5	18.6
San Diego					
Cremation:	42.6	2.9	27.9	14.7	11.8
Burial:	96.8	3.2	0.0	19.4	22.6
Area Total:	59.6	3.0	19.2	16.2	15.2
Tampa					
Cremation:	33.8	5.2	16.9	16.9	24.7
Burial:	76.3	7.9	2.6	21.1	7.9
Area Total:	47.8	6.1	12.2	18.3	19.1
Chicago					
Cremation:	43.0	3.8	16.5	21.5	15.2
Burial:	77.4	0.0	0.0	16.1	29.0
Area Total:	52.7	2.7	11.8	20.0	19.1
Kansas City					
Cremation:	48.4	1.6	28.1	21.9	12.5
Burial:	83.3	0.0	0.0	25.0	13.9
Area Total:	61.0	1.0	18.0	23.0	13.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	51.3	3.9	11.8	25.0	15.8
Burial:	85.1	0.0	2.1	21.3	21.3
Area Total:	64.2	2.4	8.1	23.6	17.9
Cremation Total:	41.7	3.2	21.7	20.4	16.6
Burial Total:	82.4	2.1	1.3	20.2	18.9
Total Sample:	55.2	2.8	14.9	20.3	17.4

Note. See Table 19 Note.

TABLE 24

Percent of Respondents Indicating Visiting, Viewing of Body,  
Social Gathering After Disposition, and Embalming of Body

<u>Area</u>	<u>Visiting With Viewing of Body</u>	<u>Body Present No Viewing</u>	<u>Visiting, Body Absent</u>	<u>Private Viewing Only</u>	<u>Social Gathering</u>	<u>Body Embalmed</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	18.9	2.8	10.4	10.4	25.5	17.0
Burial:	78.0	12.0	2.0	16.0	62.0	64.0
Area Total:	37.8	5.8	7.7	12.2	37.2	32.1
San Diego						
Cremation:	8.8	2.9	10.3	10.3	30.9	8.8
Burial:	74.2	6.5	0.0	0.0	67.7	58.1
Area Total:	29.3	4.0	7.1	7.1	42.4	24.2
Tampa						
Cremation:	29.9	7.8	13.0	7.8	36.4	14.3
Burial:	71.1	10.5	0.0	10.5	50.0	76.3
Area Total:	43.5	8.7	8.7	8.7	40.9	34.8
Chicago						
Cremation:	36.7	6.3	8.9	6.3	43.0	19.0
Burial:	96.8	3.2	0.0	3.2	71.0	58.1
Area Total:	53.6	5.5	6.4	5.5	50.9	30.0
Kansas City						
Cremation:	14.1	3.1	18.8	26.6	40.6	10.9
Burial:	83.3	11.1	2.8	11.1	58.3	80.6
Area Total:	39.0	6.0	13.0	21.0	47.0	36.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	23.7	3.9	5.3	6.6	46.1	13.2
Burial:	57.4	10.6	6.4	19.1	68.1	51.1
Area Total:	36.6	6.5	5.7	11.4	54.5	27.6
Cremation Total:	22.3	4.5	10.9	10.9	36.4	14.3
Burial Total:	75.5	9.4	2.1	11.2	62.7	64.4
Total Sample:	40.0	6.1	8.0	11.0	45.1	30.9

Note. See Table 19 Note.

TABLE 25

Percent of Burial Sample Respondents Indicating Burial or Above Ground Entombment and Percent of Cremation Sample Respondents Indicating the Method of Disposition of Ashes for the Total Metropolitan Area Samples

	<u>Burial Sample</u>		<u>Cremation Sample</u>				
	<u>Earth Burial</u>	<u>Above Ground Entombment</u>	<u>Burial of Ashes</u>	<u>Ashes in Niche</u>	<u>Ashes Not Claimed</u>	<u>Ashes Strewn</u>	<u>Ashes to Family</u>
Phoenix:	90.0	10.0	36.8	17.0	3.8	34.9	23.6
San Diego:	100.0	0.0	44.1	22.1	2.9	33.8	11.8
Tampa:	100.0	0.0	37.7	11.7	5.2	29.9	23.4
Chicago:	96.8	3.2	45.6	10.1	6.3	20.3	32.9
Kansas City:	94.4	2.8	37.5	15.6	3.1	29.7	15.6
Seattle:	91.5	8.5	42.1	25.0	1.3	22.4	18.4
Total Sample:	94.8	5.2	40.4	16.8	3.8	28.7	21.5

Note. See Table 19 Note.



TABLE 26

Average Scores, Differences, *t* values, and Significance Levels for  
Influence of Factors on Type and Place of Services/Ceremonies Held

<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>	<u>Influence Scores<sup>a</sup></u>			<u>Cremation Minus Burial Difference<sup>b</sup></u>	<u><i>t</i> value</u>	<u>Significance Level</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Burial</u>			
Preference of Deceased:	4.16	4.29	3.89	0.40	3.72	.001
Respondent Preference:	3.45	3.44	3.81	- 0.37	3.36	.001
Cause of Death:	1.68	1.62	1.81	- 0.19	1.71	ns
Religious Tradition:	2.69	2.27	3.52	- 1.25	10.10	.001
Family Tradition:	2.64	2.30	3.34	- 1.04	8.24	.001
Funeral Home Personnel:	1.82	1.59	2.29	- 0.70	6.90	.001
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel:	1.56	1.41	1.89	- 0.48	4.62	.001
Clergy/Religious Counselor:	2.08	1.82	2.58	- 0.76	6.37	.001
Other Family Members:	2.46	2.34	2.73	- 0.39	3.31	.001
Keeping Expenses Low:	2.38	2.34	2.48	- 0.14	1.30	ns

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence. <sup>b</sup>Negative difference indicates factor was reported to have more influence for burial respondents than for cremation respondents. (ns = nonsignificant)

TABLE 27

Average Scores for Influence of Factors on Type and  
Place of Services or Ceremonies Held for the Deceased

		<u>Influence Score<sup>a</sup> : Influence on Services/Ceremonies</u>					
<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>		<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Tampa</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Seattle</u>
Preference of Deceased	Cremation:	4.00	4.52	4.41	4.33	4.36	4.24
	Burial:	3.94	3.74	3.63	3.74	3.94	4.18
	Area Total:	3.98	4.28	4.16	4.18	4.20	4.22
Respondent Preference	Cremation:	3.58	3.34	3.36	3.53	3.34	3.39
	Burial:	3.69	3.45	4.00	3.68	3.80	4.17
	Area Total:	3.62	3.38	3.55	3.57	3.52	3.68
Cause of Death	Cremation:	1.59	1.71	1.58	1.72	1.36	1.72
	Burial:	1.70	1.73	1.61	2.08	1.58	2.14
	Area Total:	1.62	1.72	1.59	1.82	1.44	1.88
Religious Tradition	Cremation:	1.98	2.24	2.60	2.13	2.44	2.34
	Burial:	3.62	3.36	3.70	3.54	3.74	3.17
	Area Total:	2.53	2.61	2.94	2.53	2.93	2.65
Family Tradition	Cremation:	2.25	2.27	2.11	2.35	2.45	2.41
	Burial:	3.48	3.03	3.45	3.22	3.83	3.00
	Area Total:	2.64	2.53	2.52	2.59	2.97	2.62
Funeral Home Personnel	Cremation:	1.54	1.51	1.64	1.60	1.66	1.59
	Burial:	2.26	1.86	2.36	2.48	2.47	2.29
	Area Total:	1.79	1.62	1.88	1.84	1.96	1.85
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel	Cremation:	1.32	1.50	1.59	1.37	1.34	1.40
	Burial:	1.64	1.80	1.55	2.12	1.91	2.34
	Area Total:	1.42	1.60	1.58	1.56	1.55	1.74
Clergy/Religious Counselor	Cremation:	1.68	1.75	2.11	1.75	1.84	1.85
	Burial:	2.13	2.30	2.66	2.92	3.00	2.68
	Area Total:	1.83	1.93	2.28	2.06	2.28	2.16
Other Family Members	Cremation:	2.19	2.20	2.25	2.37	2.35	2.70
	Burial:	2.67	2.52	2.90	2.93	2.57	2.82
	Area Total:	2.35	2.30	2.45	2.53	2.43	2.74
Keeping Expenses Low	Cremation:	2.16	2.73	2.37	2.25	2.20	2.40
	Burial:	2.14	2.74	3.00	2.85	2.15	2.34
	Area Total:	2.15	2.73	2.56	2.41	2.18	2.38

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence.

TABLE 28

Average Scores, Differences, *t* values, and Significance Levels for  
Influence of Factors on Ways the Deceased was Remembered

<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>	<u>Influence Scores<sup>a</sup></u>			<u>Cremation Minus Burial Difference<sup>b</sup></u>	<u><i>t</i> value</u>	<u>Significance Level</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Burial</u>			
Preference of Deceased:	3.53	3.67	3.24	0.43	3.45	.001
Respondent Preference:	3.53	3.51	3.55	- 0.04	0.40	ns
Cause of Death:	1.94	1.86	2.11	- 0.25	2.07	.05
Religious Tradition:	2.49	2.12	3.20	- 1.08	8.76	.001
Family Tradition:	2.55	2.22	3.21	- 0.99	8.07	.001
Funeral Home Personnel:	1.59	1.40	1.99	- 0.59	5.96	.001
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel:	1.49	1.32	1.83	- 0.51	5.25	.001
Clergy/Religious Counselor:	1.96	1.73	2.42	- 0.69	5.97	.001
Other Family Members:	2.57	2.44	2.84	- 0.40	3.37	.001
Keeping Expenses Low:	2.08	1.97	2.32	- 0.35	3.03	.01

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence. <sup>b</sup>Negative difference indicates factor was reported to have more influence for burial respondents than for cremation respondents. (ns = nonsignificant)

TABLE 29

Average Scores for Influence of Factors on  
Ways the Deceased was Remembered

		<u>Influence Score<sup>a</sup> : Influence on Ways Deceased was Remembered</u>					
<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>		<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Tampa</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Seattle</u>
Preference of Deceased	Cremation:	3.54	3.84	3.77	3.90	3.89	3.18
	Burial:	3.12	3.23	3.23	3.29	3.47	3.18
	Area Total:	3.40	3.65	3.60	3.74	3.74	3.18
Respondent Preference	Cremation:	3.60	3.52	3.58	3.56	3.40	3.36
	Burial:	3.52	3.43	3.64	3.61	3.49	3.63
	Area Total:	3.57	3.50	3.60	3.57	3.43	3.47
Cause of Death	Cremation:	1.79	1.74	1.79	2.00	1.90	1.93
	Burial:	2.26	1.89	1.91	2.39	1.82	2.29
	Area Total:	1.94	1.79	1.83	2.11	1.87	2.06
Religious Tradition	Cremation:	1.80	2.18	2.49	2.00	2.02	2.36
	Burial:	3.06	3.37	3.24	3.39	3.40	2.91
	Area Total:	2.22	2.57	2.73	2.40	2.53	2.57
Family Tradition	Cremation:	2.14	2.36	2.16	2.27	2.12	2.34
	Burial:	3.28	3.00	3.33	3.00	3.34	3.22
	Area Total:	2.51	2.56	2.53	2.48	2.57	2.66
Funeral Home Personnel	Cremation:	1.23	1.50	1.57	1.36	1.45	1.34
	Burial:	1.60	1.79	2.12	2.54	2.24	1.88
	Area Total:	1.35	1.59	1.75	1.68	1.74	1.55
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel	Cremation:	1.24	1.44	1.47	1.19	1.23	1.38
	Burial:	1.56	1.57	1.87	2.33	1.97	1.81
	Area Total:	1.35	1.48	1.59	1.51	1.50	1.54
Clergy/Religious Counselor	Cremation:	1.65	1.69	1.90	1.63	1.61	1.93
	Burial:	1.96	2.37	2.50	2.73	2.91	2.31
	Area Total:	1.75	1.91	2.09	1.93	2.11	2.08
Other Family Members	Cremation:	2.38	2.41	2.26	2.22	2.62	2.80
	Burial:	2.65	2.77	3.19	2.82	2.47	3.14
	Area Total:	2.47	2.53	2.54	2.39	2.56	2.93
Keeping Expenses Low	Cremation:	1.74	2.35	2.12	1.84	1.87	2.01
	Burial:	2.00	2.45	2.71	2.56	2.03	2.38
	Area Total:	1.83	2.38	2.30	2.04	1.93	2.15

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence.

TABLE 30

Average Scores, Differences, *t* values, and Significance Levels for  
Influence of Factors on Method of Body Disposition of the Deceased

<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>	<u>Influence Scores<sup>a</sup></u> <u>Influence on Body Disposition</u>			<u>Cremation Minus Burial Difference<sup>b</sup></u>	<u><i>t</i> value</u>	<u>Significance Level</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Burial</u>			
Preference of Deceased:	4.26	4.37	4.04	0.33	3.02	.01
Respondent Preference:	3.50	3.40	3.70	- 0.30	2.47	.05
Cause of Death:	1.68	1.58	1.86	- 0.28	2.38	.05
Religious Tradition:	2.10	1.60	3.12	- 1.52	12.56	.001
Family Tradition:	2.38	1.89	3.36	- 1.47	11.89	.001
Funeral Home Personnel:	1.52	1.34	1.88	- 0.54	5.48	.001
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel:	1.46	1.31	1.76	- 0.45	4.65	.001
Clergy/Religious Counselor:	1.67	1.46	2.11	- 0.65	5.99	.001
Other Family Members:	2.28	2.09	2.66	- 0.57	4.56	.001
Keeping Expenses Low:	2.17	2.12	2.27	- 0.15	1.29	ns

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence. <sup>b</sup>Negative difference indicates factor was reported to have more influence for burial respondents than for cremation respondents. (ns - nonsignificant)

TABLE 31

Average Scores for Influence of Factors on  
Method of Body Disposition of the Deceased

		<u>Influence Score<sup>a</sup> : Influence on Method of Body Disposition</u>					
<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>		<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Tampa</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Seattle</u>
Preference of Deceased	Cremation:	4.29	4.44	4.36	4.51	4.30	4.34
	Burial:	4.08	4.10	4.00	3.73	4.03	4.19
	Area Total:	4.22	4.34	4.24	4.31	4.20	4.29
Respondent Preference	Cremation:	3.55	3.25	3.35	3.55	3.36	3.27
	Burial:	3.46	3.52	3.91	3.62	3.77	3.95
	Area Total:	3.52	3.34	3.52	3.57	3.51	3.53
Cause of Death	Cremation:	1.50	1.62	1.54	1.73	1.47	1.67
	Burial:	1.90	1.79	1.82	2.00	1.68	1.95
	Area Total:	1.63	1.67	1.63	1.80	1.54	1.78
Religious Tradition	Cremation:	1.38	1.83	1.52	1.70	1.43	1.82
	Burial:	3.10	3.04	2.91	3.38	3.63	2.76
	Area Total:	1.96	2.22	1.96	2.16	2.26	2.16
Family Tradition	Cremation:	1.69	1.98	1.78	2.01	1.90	2.08
	Burial:	3.35	3.32	3.41	3.08	3.57	3.35
	Area Total:	2.24	2.41	2.32	2.30	2.53	2.54
Funeral Home Personnel	Cremation:	1.27	1.51	1.38	1.39	1.19	1.35
	Burial:	1.75	1.67	2.26	2.08	2.03	1.58
	Area Total:	1.43	1.56	1.67	1.58	1.50	1.44
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel	Cremation:	1.29	1.48	1.38	1.39	1.10	1.25
	Burial:	1.52	1.74	2.00	2.00	1.89	1.61
	Area Total:	1.36	1.56	1.57	1.55	1.40	1.38
Clergy/Religious Counselor	Cremation:	1.40	1.62	1.51	1.57	1.19	1.45
	Burial:	1.62	2.15	2.58	2.24	2.44	1.93
	Area Total:	1.47	1.78	1.85	1.75	1.65	1.63
Other Family Members	Cremation:	2.00	2.07	2.14	1.87	2.22	2.31
	Burial:	2.46	2.71	3.16	2.35	2.40	2.90
	Area Total:	2.15	2.27	2.45	2.00	2.29	2.53
Keeping Expenses Low	Cremation:	1.95	2.48	2.32	1.99	2.00	2.08
	Burial:	2.04	2.59	2.91	2.00	2.12	2.14
	Area Total:	1.98	2.52	2.50	1.99	2.04	2.11

<sup>a</sup>Influence Score: 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence.

TABLE 32

Average Scores, Differences, *t* values, and Significance Levels for  
Influence of Factors on Combined Aspects of Final Arrangements

<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>	<u>Combined Influence Score<sup>a</sup></u>			<u>Cremation Minus Burial Difference<sup>b</sup></u>	<u><i>t</i> value</u>	<u>Significance Level</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Burial</u>			
Preference of Deceased:	3.99	4.12	3.74	0.38	3.93	.001
Respondent Preference:	3.54	3.46	3.70	- 0.24	2.41	.05
Cause of Death:	1.76	1.68	1.92	- 0.24	2.32	.05
Religious Tradition:	2.42	1.98	3.27	- 1.29	11.96	.001
Family Tradition:	2.53	2.14	3.31	- 1.17	10.18	.001
Funeral Home Personnel:	1.62	1.42	2.05	- 0.63	6.99	.001
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel:	1.48	1.34	1.78	- 0.44	5.06	.001
Clergy/Religious Counselor:	1.88	1.66	2.34	- 0.68	6.51	.001
Other Family Members:	2.43	2.27	2.74	- 0.47	4.37	.001
Keeping Expenses Low:	2.20	2.14	2.31	- 0.17	1.54	ns

<sup>a</sup>Combined Influence Score is the average of the Influence Scores for Services/Ceremonies, Remembrances, and Body Disposition; 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence. <sup>b</sup>Negative difference indicates combined factors were reported to have more influence for burial respondents than cremation respondents. (ns = nonsignificant)

TABLE 33

Average Scores for Influence of Factors on  
Combined Aspects of Final Arrangements

<u>Combined Influence Score<sup>a</sup>: Influence on Combined Final Arrangements</u>							
<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>		<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Tampa</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Seattle</u>
Preference of Deceased	Cremation:	3.97	4.28	4.17	4.26	4.18	3.92
	Burial:	3.76	3.74	3.63	3.53	3.82	3.85
	Area Total:	3.90	4.12	3.99	4.07	4.04	3.90
Respondent Preference	Cremation:	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.59	3.36	3.33
	Burial:	3.54	3.51	3.83	3.68	3.69	3.97
	Area Total:	3.57	3.42	3.55	3.61	3.48	3.57
Cause of Death	Cremation:	1.59	1.71	1.65	1.84	1.56	1.72
	Burial:	1.96	1.85	1.71	2.07	1.71	2.18
	Area Total:	1.71	1.75	1.67	1.90	1.62	1.89
Religious Tradition	Cremation:	1.68	2.12	2.15	1.96	1.98	2.13
	Burial:	3.24	3.26	3.27	3.40	3.59	2.97
	Area Total:	2.22	2.49	2.50	2.35	2.58	2.44
Family Tradition	Cremation:	2.00	2.24	2.02	2.24	2.15	2.29
	Burial:	3.40	3.11	3.36	3.04	3.58	3.24
	Area Total:	2.45	2.52	2.44	2.46	2.69	2.64
Funeral Home Personnel	Cremation:	1.33	1.52	1.52	1.40	1.40	1.38
	Burial:	1.84	1.81	2.26	2.31	2.26	1.91
	Area Total:	1.50	1.60	1.77	1.64	1.72	1.58
Cemetery/Crematory Personnel	Cremation:	1.26	1.46	1.47	1.28	1.23	1.34
	Burial:	1.54	1.76	1.60	2.13	1.89	1.92
	Area Total:	1.35	1.55	1.50	1.50	1.48	1.55
Clergy/Religious Counselor	Cremation:	1.56	1.69	1.84	1.66	1.55	1.71
	Burial:	1.88	2.28	2.52	2.56	2.74	2.28
	Area Total:	1.66	1.87	2.06	1.89	2.00	1.93
Other Family Members	Cremation:	2.15	2.16	2.21	2.14	2.41	2.60
	Burial:	2.62	2.67	3.13	2.63	2.49	2.96
	Area Total:	2.30	2.33	2.50	2.28	2.44	2.72
Keeping Expenses Low	Cremation:	1.96	2.51	2.29	2.02	2.03	2.15
	Burial:	2.05	2.52	2.82	2.41	2.06	2.25
	Area Total:	1.99	2.51	2.44	2.13	2.04	2.19

<sup>a</sup>Combined Influence Score is the average of the Influence Scores for Services/Ceremonies, Remembrances, and Body Disposition; 1 = no influence, 2 = little influence, 3 = moderate influence, 4 = much influence, 5 = very much influence.



TABLE 34

Percent of Responses Indicating Length of Illness of Deceased Before Death

Area	<u>Unexpected</u>	<u>Less Than a Week</u>	<u>A Week to a Month</u>	<u>1-6 Months</u>	<u>More Than 6 Months</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	16.0	2.8	13.2	18.9	49.1
Burial:	18.0	0.0	2.0	14.0	66.0
Area Total:	16.7	1.9	9.6	17.3	54.5
San Diego					
Cremation:	25.0	4.4	2.9	14.7	48.5
Burial:	25.8	0.0	12.9	19.4	41.9
Area Total:	25.3	3.0	6.1	16.2	46.5
Tampa					
Cremation:	26.0	2.6	2.6	19.5	49.4
Burial:	21.1	2.6	2.6	18.4	50.0
Area Total:	24.3	2.6	2.6	19.1	49.6
Chicago					
Cremation:	21.5	1.3	10.1	26.6	39.2
Burial:	25.8	6.5	9.7	9.7	48.4
Area Total:	22.7	2.7	10.0	21.8	41.8
Kansas City					
Cremation:	20.3	3.1	3.1	23.4	48.4
Burial:	22.2	0.0	11.1	13.9	52.8
Area Total:	21.0	2.0	6.0	20.0	50.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	31.6	2.6	7.9	15.8	42.1
Burial:	17.0	4.3	10.6	14.9	53.2
Area Total:	26.0	3.3	8.9	15.4	46.3
Cremation Total:	23.0	2.8	7.2	19.8	46.2
Burial Total:	21.0	2.1	7.7	15.0	53.2
Total Sample:	22.3	2.6	7.4	18.2	48.5

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 35

## Percent of Responses Indicating Cause of Death of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Heart Disorder</u>	<u>Cancer</u>	<u>Other Physical Disorder</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Multiple Response</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	33.0	26.4	27.4	2.8	0.9	9.4
Burial:	26.0	28.0	36.0	2.0	0.0	8.0
Area Total:	30.8	26.9	30.1	2.6	0.6	9.0
San Diego						
Cremation:	39.7	16.2	35.3	0.0	1.5	7.4
Burial:	32.3	22.6	25.8	0.0	0.0	16.7
Area Total:	37.4	18.2	32.3	0.0	1.0	10.1
Tampa						
Cremation:	33.8	23.4	31.2	5.2	1.3	5.2
Burial:	31.6	36.8	21.1	0.0	2.6	7.9
Area Total:	33.0	27.8	27.8	3.5	1.7	6.1
Chicago						
Cremation:	32.9	22.8	31.6	1.3	2.5	8.9
Burial:	29.0	16.1	38.7	0.0	3.2	12.9
Area Total:	31.8	20.9	33.6	0.9	2.7	10.0
Kansas City						
Cremation:	21.9	26.6	31.3	3.1	1.6	14.1
Burial:	47.2	25.0	22.2	0.0	0.0	5.6
Area Total:	31.0	26.0	28.0	2.0	1.0	11.1
Seattle						
Cremation:	31.6	21.1	31.6	6.6	1.3	6.6
Burial:	36.2	23.4	31.9	2.1	0.0	6.4
Area Total:	33.3	22.0	31.7	4.9	0.8	6.5
Cremation Total:	32.2	23.0	31.1	3.2	1.5	8.5
Burial Total:	33.5	25.8	29.6	0.9	0.9	9.0
Total Sample:	32.7	23.9	30.6	2.4	1.3	8.7

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 36

Percent of Responses Indicating Each Place of Death of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Health Center/ Nursing Home</u>	<u>Other Location</u>
Phoenix				
Cremation:	47.2	21.7	23.6	6.6
Burial:	54.0	28.0	14.0	4.0
Area Total:	49.4	23.7	20.5	5.8
San Diego				
Cremation:	50.0	36.8	4.4	4.4
Burial:	45.2	32.3	16.1	6.5
Area Total:	48.5	35.4	8.1	5.1
Tampa				
Cremation:	51.9	28.6	10.4	9.1
Burial:	57.9	28.9	10.5	0.0
Area Total:	53.9	28.7	10.4	6.1
Chicago				
Cremation:	57.0	25.3	16.5	1.3
Burial:	58.1	25.8	9.7	3.2
Area Total:	57.3	25.5	14.5	1.8
Kansas City				
Cremation:	37.5	23.4	35.9	1.6
Burial:	38.9	22.2	25.0	8.3
Area Total:	38.0	23.0	32.0	4.0
Seattle				
Cremation:	42.1	26.3	22.4	7.9
Burial:	46.8	29.8	21.3	0.0
Area Total:	43.9	27.6	22.0	4.9
Cremation Total:	47.9	26.6	18.9	5.3
Burial Total:	50.2	27.9	16.3	3.4
Total Sample:	48.6	27.0	18.1	4.7

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 37

Percent of Respondents Indicating If They Had Discussed Death and Dying With the Deceased and If the Deceased Had Ever Expressed a Preference for Cremation

<u>Area</u>	<u>Discussed Death and Dying</u>		<u>Deceased Had Preference for Cremation</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	70.8	28.3	94.3	4.7	0.9
Burial:	74.0	26.0	10.0	82.0	8.0
Area Total:	71.8	27.6	67.3	29.5	3.2
San Diego					
Cremation:	75.0	25.0	80.9	10.3	5.9
Burial:	64.5	35.5	3.2	96.8	0.0
Area Total:	71.7	28.3	56.6	37.4	4.0
Tampa					
Cremation:	71.4	26.0	89.6	6.5	2.6
Burial:	63.2	36.8	5.3	92.1	0.0
Area Total:	68.7	29.6	61.7	34.8	1.7
Chicago					
Cremation:	77.2	22.8	86.1	7.6	6.3
Burial:	54.8	45.2	0.0	93.5	6.5
Area Total:	70.9	29.1	61.8	31.8	6.4
Kansas City					
Cremation:	68.8	28.1	84.4	6.3	6.3
Burial:	63.9	36.1	5.6	91.7	2.8
Area Total:	67.0	31.0	56.0	37.0	5.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	71.1	28.9	85.5	3.9	10.5
Burial:	63.8	34.0	2.1	85.1	8.5
Area Total:	68.3	30.9	53.7	35.0	9.8
Cremation Total:	72.3	26.6	87.4	6.4	5.1
Burial Total:	64.8	34.8	4.7	89.3	4.7
Total Sample:	69.8	29.3	60.0	33.9	5.0

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 38

Percent of Respondents Indicating If Arrangements Were Contracted For Before  
Death of the Deceased and If Prearrangements Were Made With a Memorial Society

<u>Area</u>	<u>Arrangements Contracted Before Death</u>			<u>Prearrangements With Memorial Society</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	32.1	67.9	0.0	11.3	81.1	7.5
Burial:	50.0	50.0	0.0	16.0	76.0	8.0
Area Total:	37.8	62.2	0.0	12.8	79.5	7.7
San Diego						
Cremation:	42.6	54.4	0.0	16.2	80.9	0.0
Burial:	51.6	48.4	0.0	32.3	67.7	0.0
Area Total:	45.5	52.5	0.0	21.2	76.8	0.0
Tampa						
Cremation:	45.5	53.2	1.3	11.7	84.4	3.9
Burial:	18.4	76.3	0.0	10.5	81.6	5.3
Area Total:	36.5	60.9	0.9	11.3	83.5	4.3
Chicago						
Cremation:	26.6	73.4	0.0	7.6	89.9	2.5
Burial:	25.8	74.2	0.0	0.0	93.5	3.2
Area Total:	26.4	73.6	0.0	5.5	90.9	2.7
Kansas City						
Cremation:	39.1	59.4	0.0	10.9	84.4	3.1
Burial:	52.8	47.2	0.0	16.7	80.6	2.8
Area Total:	44.0	55.0	0.0	13.0	83.0	3.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	39.5	59.2	1.3	14.5	73.7	11.8
Burial:	42.6	46.8	6.4	17.0	72.3	6.4
Area Total:	40.7	54.5	3.3	15.4	73.2	9.8
Cremation Total:	37.0	61.9	0.4	11.9	82.3	5.1
Burial Total:	40.8	56.2	1.3	15.5	78.1	4.7
Total Sample:	38.3	60.0	0.7	13.1	80.9	5.0

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 39

Percent of Respondents Indicating Body Disposition They Would Choose for the Deceased  
If They Could Choose Again and Body Disposition They Would Choose for Themselves

Area	Body Disposition Choice for Deceased			Body Disposition Choice for Themselves			
	Burial	Cremation	Donation	Burial	Cremation	Donation	No Preference
Phoenix							
Cremation:	6.6	86.8	3.8	11.3	66.0	10.4	6.6
Burial:	90.0	6.0	2.0	66.0	20.0	6.0	2.0
Area Total:	33.3	60.9	3.2	28.8	51.3	9.0	5.1
San Diego							
Cremation:	5.9	86.8	2.9	17.6	67.6	5.9	2.9
Burial:	93.5	3.2	3.2	71.0	6.5	6.5	16.1
Area Total:	33.3	60.6	3.0	34.3	48.5	6.1	7.1
Tampa							
Cremation:	5.2	92.2	0.0	6.5	72.7	9.1	7.8
Burial:	89.5	2.6	5.3	65.8	13.2	7.9	7.9
Area Total:	33.0	62.6	1.7	26.1	53.0	8.7	7.8
Chicago							
Cremation:	5.1	93.7	1.3	6.3	75.9	10.1	5.1
Burial:	96.8	0.0	3.2	74.2	6.5	12.9	6.5
Area Total:	30.9	67.3	1.8	25.5	56.4	10.9	5.5
Kansas City							
Cremation:	6.3	89.1	3.1	15.6	51.6	15.6	10.9
Burial:	94.4	2.8	0.0	88.9	2.8	5.6	2.8
Area Total:	38.0	58.0	2.0	42.0	34.0	12.0	8.0
Seattle							
Cremation:	3.9	89.5	3.9	10.5	63.2	11.8	6.6
Burial:	91.5	4.3	0.0	63.8	19.1	6.4	6.4
Area Total:	37.4	56.9	2.4	30.9	46.3	9.8	6.5
Cremation Total:	5.5	89.6	2.6	11.1	66.6	10.4	6.6
Burial Total:	92.3	3.4	2.1	70.8	12.4	7.3	6.4
Total Sample:	34.3	61.0	2.4	30.9	48.6	9.4	6.5

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 40

Percent of Respondents Indicating If Body or Organs of the Deceased Were Donated and Which Organs They Would Be Willing to Donate or If They Would Not Donate Organs

	<u>Total Sample</u>	<u>Cremation Sample</u>	<u>Burial Sample</u>
Body of Deceased Donated	0.9	1.1	0.4
Organs of Deceased Donated	4.0	5.1	1.7
<u>Organs Respondent Would Donate</u>			
Eyes:	52.1	57.9	40.3
Kidneys:	49.5	56.2	36.1
Liver:	46.9	53.6	33.5
Lung:	44.0	50.9	30.0
Heart:	47.4	53.2	35.6
Would Not Donate Organs:	35.7	30.4	46.4

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 41

Percent of Respondents Indicating That They Have a Particular Place They Go to Remember the Deceased and Keep a Particular Possession as a Remembrance of the Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Particular Place to Go To Remember Deceased</u>		<u>Keep Particular Possession To Remember Deceased</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Phoenix				
Cremation:	23.6	76.4	69.8	30.2
Burial:	48.0	52.0	76.0	22.0
Area Total:	31.4	68.6	71.8	27.6
San Diego				
Cremation:	20.6	77.9	72.1	27.9
Burial:	29.0	71.0	58.1	41.9
Area Total:	23.2	75.8	67.7	32.3
Tampa				
Cremation:	13.0	84.4	57.1	39.0
Burial:	36.8	60.5	68.4	28.9
Area Total:	20.9	76.5	60.9	35.7
Chicago				
Cremation:	35.4	64.6	78.5	21.5
Burial:	45.2	54.8	83.9	16.1
Area Total:	38.2	61.8	80.0	20.0
Kansas City				
Cremation:	18.8	81.3	62.5	34.4
Burial:	19.4	80.6	75.0	25.0
Area Total:	19.0	81.0	67.0	31.0
Seattle				
Cremation:	35.5	63.2	81.6	18.4
Burial:	34.0	63.8	76.6	23.4
Area Total:	35.0	63.4	79.7	20.3
Cremation Total:	24.7	74.5	70.4	28.5
Burial Total:	36.1	63.1	73.4	25.8
Total Sample:	28.4	70.7	71.4	27.6

Note. See Table 2 Note.



TABLE 42

Average Ratings for Closeness of Personal Relationship With Deceased, Contact With Mutual Friends and Relatives Since Death, and Self-Adjustment to Death of Deceased

<u>Area</u>	<u>Closeness of Personal Relationship<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Contact With Friends and Relatives<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Self-Adjustment to Death of Deceased<sup>c</sup></u>
Phoenix			
Cremation:	4.12	2.92	4.02
Burial:	4.66	2.70	3.56
Area Total:	4.30	2.85	3.87
San Diego			
Cremation:	4.10	2.85	3.96
Burial:	4.16	2.97	3.48
Area Total:	4.12	2.89	3.81
Tampa			
Cremation:	4.33	3.11	3.95
Burial:	4.26	2.92	3.55
Area Total:	4.31	3.04	3.81
Chicago			
Cremation:	4.38	2.90	3.90
Burial:	4.55	2.97	3.55
Area Total:	4.43	2.92	3.80
Kansas City			
Cremation:	4.08	2.67	3.94
Burial:	4.36	3.14	4.00
Area Total:	4.18	2.84	3.96
Seattle			
Cremation:	4.25	3.12	3.95
Burial:	3.98	2.60	3.89
Area Total:	4.15	2.92	3.93
Cremation Total:	4.21	2.94	3.96
Burial Total:	4.33	2.85	3.68
Total Sample:	4.25	2.91	3.86

<sup>a</sup>Closeness Rating: 1 = not at all close, 2 = not very close, 3 = moderately close, 4 = very close, 5 = extremely close. <sup>b</sup>Frequency of Contact Rating: 1 = much less, 2 = a little less, 3 = about the same, 4 = a little more, 5 = much more. <sup>c</sup>Self-Adjustment to Death Rating: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = adequate, 4 = good, 5 = very good.

TABLE 43

Average Scores for Satisfaction With Final Arrangements for the  
Deceased at Time of Occurrence and at Time of Responding and the  
Average Change Scores for Cremation and Burial Samples and Total Sample

<u>Aspect of Final Arrangement</u>		<u>Satisfaction Score<sup>a</sup></u> <u>Time of Occurrence</u>	<u>Satisfaction Score</u> <u>Time of Responding</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>Score<sup>b</sup></u>
Type of Services/Ceremonies	Cremation Total:	4.35	4.41	.06
	Burial Total:	4.45	4.47	.02
	Total Sample:	4.39	4.43	.04
Place of Services/Ceremonies	Cremation Total:	4.41	4.42	-.01
	Burial Total:	4.50	4.48	-.02
	Total Sample:	4.44	4.44	.00
Method of Disposition of Deceased	Cremation Total:	4.42	4.42	.00
	Burial Total:	4.55	4.51	-.04
	Total Sample :	4.46	4.45	-.01
Overall Attendance at Activities	Cremation Total:	4.32	4.35	.03
	Burial Total:	4.46	4.48	.02
	Total Sample:	4.37	4.40	.03
Overall Cost of Arrangement	Cremation Total:	4.14	4.18	.04
	Burial Total:	3.99	4.00	.01
	Total Sample:	4.09	4.12	.03
Service From Funeral Home/ Crematory	Cremation Total:	4.26	4.25	-.01
	Burial Total:	4.40	4.32	-.08
	Total Sample:	4.31	4.27	-.04
Presence of Flowers or Their Omission	Cremation Total:	4.38	4.40	.02
	Burial Total:	4.42	4.44	.02
	Total Sample:	4.39	4.41	.02
Able to Visit/View Body or Its Omission	Cremation Total:	4.39	4.42	.03
	Burial Total:	4.46	4.48	.02
	Total Sample:	4.41	4.44	.03
Donation Funds Listed or Their Omission	Cremation Total:	4.39	4.43	.04
	Burial Total:	4.29	4.35	.06
	Total Sample:	4.36	4.41	.05
Monument/Marker Used or Its Omission	Cremation Total:	4.40	4.40	.00
	Burial Total:	4.30	4.33	.03
	Total Sample:	4.36	4.37	.01

<sup>a</sup>Satisfaction Score: 1 = not at all satisfied, 2 = not very satisfied, 3 = moderately satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, 5 = completely satisfied. <sup>b</sup>Change Score = Satisfaction Score at Time of Responding - Satisfaction Score at Time of Occurrence. Negative values indicate a decrease in satisfaction with arrangement over time.

TABLE 44

Average Depression Scores, Average Grief Adjustment Scores, Average Grief Resolution Scores, and Average Time in Months Between Death of Deceased and Response

<u>Area</u>	<u>Depression Score<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Grief Adjustment Score<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Grief Resolution Score<sup>c</sup></u>	<u>Time Since Death in Months</u>
Phoenix				
Cremation:	4.90	28.21	39.79	21.4
Burial:	8.57	27.08	34.22	24.5
Area Total:	6.12	27.84	38.07	22.4
San Diego				
Cremation:	4.98	28.87	39.37	18.8
Burial:	7.16	25.81	35.97	19.6
Area Total:	5.70	27.85	38.25	19.1
Tampa				
Cremation:	5.36	28.77	38.82	22.3
Burial:	6.75	27.73	34.44	23.0
Area Total:	5.82	28.45	37.47	22.5
Chicago				
Cremation:	6.66	27.41	37.13	22.0
Burial:	6.71	27.50	32.40	20.9
Area Total:	6.68	27.44	35.78	21.7
Kansas City				
Cremation:	5.45	28.74	40.16	18.6
Burial:	5.03	28.89	40.21	20.5
Area Total:	5.29	28.80	40.18	19.3
Seattle				
Cremation:	5.42	28.11	39.13	19.4
Burial:	5.67	27.60	39.45	20.3
Area Total:	5.52	27.92	39.26	19.7
Cremation Total:	5.44	28.32	39.06	20.6
Burial Total:	6.71	27.45	36.22	21.6
Total Sample:	5.87	28.03	38.12	20.9

<sup>a</sup>Depression Score is the total score on 19 items from Beck Depression Scale, and has a possible range of scores from 0 to 47. <sup>b</sup>Grief Adjustment Score is the total score on 7 items based on the Texas Grief Inventory-I; possible range of scores is from 7 to 35. <sup>c</sup>Grief Resolution Score is the total score on 11 items based on the Texas Grief Inventory-II; possible range of scores is from 11 to 55.

TABLE 45

Average Ratings for the Value of Open Discussion About Death and Dying for Society  
and for the Value of Open Discussion About Death and Dying for Coping With Death

<u>Area</u>	<u>Average Value Rating<sup>a</sup></u>	
	<u>Value of</u> <u>Discussion for Society</u>	<u>Value of Discussion</u> <u>for Coping With Death</u>
Phoenix		
Cremation:	4.11	3.97
Burial:	3.98	3.92
Area Total:	4.07	3.96
San Diego		
Cremation:	3.93	4.00
Burial:	3.68	3.48
Area Total:	3.85	3.84
Tampa		
Cremation:	4.18	4.13
Burial:	4.08	4.11
Area Total:	4.15	4.12
Chicago		
Cremation:	4.09	3.96
Burial:	4.10	4.19
Area Total:	4.09	4.03
Kansas City		
Cremation:	4.18	4.05
Burial:	3.91	3.60
Area Total:	4.08	3.89
Seattle		
Cremation:	4.23	4.08
Burial:	3.96	4.04
Area Total:	4.13	4.07
Cremation Total:	4.12	4.03
Burial Total:	3.96	3.90
Total Sample:	4.07	3.99

<sup>a</sup> Value Rating: 1 = no value, 2 = little value, 3 = moderate value, 4 = much value,  
5 = very much value.

TABLE 46

Percent of Responses to Questions Related to Informing Terminally Ill  
About Their Condition and Encouraging Them to Talk About Dying

<u>Area</u>	<u>Terminally Ill Should Be Told They Are Dying</u>			<u>Terminally Ill Should Be Encouraged to Talk About Dying</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	82.1	5.7	12.3	70.8	15.1	14.2
Burial:	66.0	10.0	24.0	54.0	8.0	38.0
Area Total:	76.9	7.1	16.0	65.4	12.8	21.8
San Diego						
Cremation:	69.1	10.3	20.6	69.1	17.6	13.2
Burial:	54.8	9.7	35.5	41.9	22.6	35.5
Area Total:	64.6	10.1	25.3	60.6	19.2	20.2
Tampa						
Cremation:	83.1	3.9	11.7	70.1	11.7	18.2
Burial:	71.1	10.5	18.4	63.2	18.4	18.4
Area Total:	79.1	6.1	13.9	67.8	13.9	18.3
Chicago						
Cremation:	65.8	10.1	24.1	64.6	16.5	19.0
Burial:	64.5	9.7	22.6	41.9	16.1	41.9
Area Total:	65.5	10.0	23.6	58.2	16.4	25.5
Kansas City						
Cremation:	62.5	10.9	21.9	60.9	10.9	26.6
Burial:	61.1	13.9	25.0	63.9	16.7	19.4
Area Total:	62.0	12.0	23.0	62.0	13.0	24.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	75.0	5.3	18.4	69.7	10.5	18.4
Burial:	63.8	10.6	23.4	53.2	19.1	25.5
Area Total:	70.7	7.3	20.3	63.4	13.8	21.1
Cremation Total:	73.8	7.4	17.7	67.9	13.8	17.9
Burial Total:	63.9	10.7	24.5	53.6	16.3	29.6
Total Sample:	70.6	8.5	19.9	63.2	14.7	21.8

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 47

Percent of Respondents Who Would Most Likely Attend a Talk  
About Death and Dying Given By Each Category of Presenter

<u>Area</u>	<u>Category of Presenter</u>				
	<u>Funeral Director</u>	<u>Doctor/Nurse</u>	<u>Clergyman</u>	<u>Counselor/ Social Worker</u>	<u>Survivor</u>
Phoenix					
Cremation:	1.9	14.2	19.8	14.2	35.8
Burial:	4.0	8.0	28.0	18.0	30.0
Area Total:	2.6	12.2	22.4	15.4	34.0
San Diego					
Cremation:	0.0	11.8	23.5	14.7	36.8
Burial:	0.0	22.6	29.0	6.5	32.3
Area Total:	0.0	15.2	25.3	12.1	35.4
Tampa					
Cremation:	2.6	14.3	20.8	10.4	44.2
Burial:	2.6	15.8	31.6	5.3	36.8
Area Total:	2.6	14.8	24.3	8.7	41.7
Chicago					
Cremation:	1.3	19.0	12.7	15.2	48.1
Burial:	0.0	16.1	41.9	12.9	22.6
Area Total:	0.9	18.2	20.9	14.5	40.9
Kansas City					
Cremation:	1.6	17.2	15.6	15.6	39.1
Burial:	0.0	8.3	38.9	11.1	36.1
Area Total:	1.0	14.0	24.0	14.0	38.0
Seattle					
Cremation:	0.0	14.5	19.7	17.1	36.8
Burial:	2.1	8.5	31.9	12.8	29.8
Area Total:	0.8	12.2	24.4	15.4	34.1
Cremation Total:	1.3	15.1	18.7	14.5	40.0
Burial Total:	1.7	12.4	33.0	11.6	31.3
Total Sample:	1.4	14.2	23.5	13.5	37.1

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 48

Percent of Respondents Indicating Support of a Public Service to  
Assist in Making Final Arrangements for the Deceased and If They  
Value Public Access to More Information About Final Arrangements

<u>Area</u>	<u>Favor Public Service</u>		<u>Would Use Public Service</u>		<u>Value Public Information</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Phoenix						
Cremation:	43.4	52.8	27.4	69.8	91.5	5.7
Burial:	38.0	60.0	28.0	70.0	84.0	12.0
Area Total:	41.7	55.1	27.6	69.9	89.1	7.7
San Diego						
Cremation:	47.1	51.5	29.4	67.6	86.8	11.8
Burial:	51.6	48.4	51.6	48.4	83.9	16.1
Area Total:	48.5	50.5	36.4	61.6	85.9	13.1
Tampa						
Cremation:	51.9	45.5	35.1	62.3	90.9	6.5
Burial:	42.1	50.0	28.9	63.2	78.9	13.2
Area Total:	48.7	47.0	33.0	62.6	87.0	8.7
Chicago						
Cremation:	36.7	60.8	25.3	72.2	84.8	12.7
Burial:	41.9	54.8	32.3	64.5	90.3	6.5
Area Total:	38.2	59.1	27.3	70.0	86.4	10.9
Kansas City						
Cremation:	48.4	48.4	25.0	73.4	84.4	14.1
Burial:	52.8	47.2	19.4	80.6	91.7	8.3
Area Total:	50.0	48.0	23.0	76.0	87.0	12.0
Seattle						
Cremation:	51.3	47.4	36.8	60.5	89.5	10.5
Burial:	29.8	66.0	21.3	74.5	83.0	14.9
Area Total:	43.1	54.5	30.9	65.9	87.0	12.2
Cremation Total:	46.2	51.3	29.8	67.7	88.3	9.8
Burial Total:	41.6	55.4	29.2	67.8	85.0	12.0
Total Sample:	44.7	52.6	29.6	67.7	87.2	10.5

Note. See Table 2 Note.

TABLE 49

Average Scores, Differences, *t* values, and Significance Levels for  
Importance of Factors for Final Arrangements for a Deceased Person

<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>	<u>Importance Scores<sup>a</sup></u>			<u>Cremation Minus Burial Difference<sup>b</sup></u>	<u><i>t</i> value</u>	<u>Significance Level</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cremation</u>	<u>Burial</u>			
Preference of Deceased:	4.48	4.58	4.27	0.31	4.67	.001
Preference of Close Survivors:	3.58	3.54	3.66	- 0.12	1.29	ns
Cost of Arrangements:	3.35	3.29	3.47	- 0.18	1.79	ns
Social/Community Tradition:	2.14	1.96	2.52	- 0.56	5.71	.001
Convenient/Efficient Arrangements:	3.45	3.35	3.64	- 0.29	2.99	.01
Appearance of Body at Death:	3.00	2.60	3.77	- 1.17	10.69	.001
Deterioration of Body After Death:	2.78	2.51	3.33	- 0.82	6.67	.00
Concern for Use of Land:	2.62	2.58	2.69	- 0.11	0.94	ns

<sup>a</sup> Importance Score: 1 = not at all important, 2 = not very important, 3 = moderately important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important. <sup>b</sup> Negative difference indicates factor was reported to have more importance for burial respondents than for cremation respondents. (ns = nonsignificant)



TABLE 50

Average Scores for Importance of Factors for Final  
Arrangements for a Deceased Person for Area Samples

		<u>Average Importance Score<sup>a</sup></u>					
<u>Final Arrangement Factor</u>		<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Tampa</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Kansas City</u>	<u>Seattle</u>
Preference of Deceased							
	Cremation:	4.59	4.60	4.57	4.49	4.62	4.61
	Burial:	4.29	4.13	4.24	4.26	4.28	4.37
	Area Total:	4.49	4.45	4.46	4.42	4.50	4.52
Prefence of Close Survivors							
	Cremation:	3.38	3.58	3.18	3.59	3.82	3.83
	Burial:	3.81	3.58	3.42	3.67	3.51	3.83
	Area Total:	3.52	3.58	3.26	3.61	3.70	3.83
Cost of Arrangements							
	Cremation:	3.34	3.28	3.23	3.29	3.24	3.35
	Burial:	3.22	3.55	3.79	3.40	3.28	3.63
	Area Total:	3.30	3.37	3.41	3.32	3.26	3.46
Social/Community Tradition							
	Cremation:	1.84	1.89	2.03	1.77	1.98	2.30
	Burial:	2.56	2.29	2.43	2.71	2.63	2.50
	Area Total:	2.07	2.02	2.16	2.03	2.22	2.38
Convenient/efficient Arrangements							
	Cremation:	3.29	3.40	3.26	3.41	3.44	3.34
	Burial:	3.71	3.60	3.49	3.77	3.60	3.63
	Area Total:	3.43	3.46	3.33	3.51	3.50	3.46
Appearance of Body at Death							
	Cremation:	2.66	2.25	2.59	2.92	2.52	2.58
	Burial:	3.86	3.38	3.92	4.03	3.83	3.59
	Area Total:	3.05	2.60	3.04	3.24	3.01	2.97
Deterioration of Body After Death							
	Cremation:	2.43	2.31	2.48	2.69	2.43	2.67
	Burial:	3.38	3.04	3.48	3.34	3.34	3.31
	Area Total:	2.74	2.54	2.80	2.88	2.77	2.92
Concern for Use of Land							
	Cremation:	2.54	2.73	2.58	2.24	2.64	2.81
	Burial:	2.69	2.71	2.75	2.62	2.49	2.85
	Area Total:	2.59	2.72	2.64	2.33	2.59	2.83

<sup>a</sup>Importance Score: 1 = not at all important, 2 = not very important, 3 = moderately important, 4 = very important, 5 = extremely important.

## SUMMARY

What has "Project Understanding" told us about the multiple antecedents and outcomes of the choice for cremation? The answers in the present study have come from white, metropolitan, primarily female, next of kin, who have reported their reactions based on cremations involving white males and females, half of whom were spouses. These cremation respondents, when contrasted with a smaller but comparable sample of burial respondents, revealed that some of the variables investigated in "Project Understanding" were associated with the choice for cremation while others were not. It should be noted that some of the relationships that were obtained regarding the cremation and burial samples were based on only a small percent of the total sample. The results also found many similarities among the individuals involved with cremation and those involved with burial.

### Antecedent Factors

Antecedent factors which were associated to some degree with the choice of cremation included marital status, religious preference, and religious activity. Married individuals rather than widows, Protestants rather than Catholics, and those relatively less active in religious events, are somewhat more likely to be associated with cremation than with burial. Individuals with higher education, and at higher employment and income levels, are also more likely to be involved in final arrangements where cremation was chosen. Cremation is a little less likely to be chosen when the deceased is a spouse than some other relationship, and is more likely when the deceased has been living alone or in a group or nursing home.

Having had a discussion about death and dying with the deceased was slightly more prevalent in cases where cremation was chosen. For a large majority of the cremation cases, cremation had been an expressed preference of the deceased. For the burial group, the large majority of deceased had never expressed such a preference. Discussion of death and dying, particularly with respect to final arrangements, was commented on as being very valuable for survivors in both samples:

...we discussed death and he had me write down what his wishes were for a funeral. I am able to cope with his death more so than I would have been had death never been discussed. (Widow whose husband had prearranged cremation.)

...We had talked about cremation and decided. I'll always be thankful for the prearrangements. It was a great help when death came so suddenly. (Widow and deceased husband had made prearrangements together.)

...My mother was 95 and wished to die because she was tired. She was Russian Orthodox and we gave her the funeral exactly as she had told me she wished for and I am glad she is at rest. (Surviving daughter from burial sample.)

My husband and I made preliminary plans in our 50's, it was of great value to me when he was ill and died. (Widow from the burial sample whose husband died at 74 years old.)

The fact that my first husband and I had discussed death and what each should do in that eventuality, made the fact of his (second husband's) death a bit easier. Of course I was shocked and upset for awhile but I accepted it more quickly than I thought. (Widow for second time.)

A much higher proportion of respondents reported discussions about death and dying with the deceased than discussions about prearrangements for final disposition. There was no difference between cremation and burial samples in regard to the proportion who had contracted funeral services before the death occurred or had made prearrangements with a Memorial Society.

Other antecedent factors that were not associated with cremation in this survey included age or sex of the respondent and age or sex of the deceased, the respondent's living arrangement, the length of illness, the cause or place of death, and the closeness to the deceased.

### Influence Factors

Preference of the deceased was reported as having had the most influence on the final arrangements for the deceased for both cremation and burial respondents. The next most influential factor was respondent preference which was also reported as having had a strong influence on the final arrangements. The preference of the deceased would appear to be a dominating factor even when it differs from the survivor's choice. For instance, one respondent noted, "When he mentioned he wanted to be cremated, I was shocked, but I followed his wishes exactly." A surviving relative also said, "I don't believe in cremation...but it was what she (an aunt) wanted."

Overall, the choice for cremation was not reported to be influenced to a significant extent by religion or family, by funeral industry personnel, or by a desire to keep expenses low. Yet, respondents' comments make it clear that in particular cases, these different factors could be very influential in making that choice:

Cremation was her choice, Mother was a Christian lady and her service was a celebration of her life.

...our sacramental church with close community has been the single most important factor in helping me with his death.

...family members discussed preference for cremation and each has made the necessary prearrangements...

Cremation was what my grandfather wanted, what my father wanted, and what I want for myself.

We were contacted by phone by cemetery personnel and made arrangements (for cremation) by a home visit.

My mother contacted the funeral director and the three of us planned her funeral, she even joked about it. Her ashes were shipped East to be buried with my father.

...I did not want him cremated. The children and I did not have money to have a funeral as I would like to have had.

...he was a very frugal person and he stated his wish for cremation.

Keeping expenses low approached being significantly more influential for female respondents in the cremation group than it was for male respondents, [ $M = 2.22$  vs.  $1.98$ ;  $t = 1.98$ ,  $p < .06$ ] and it was significantly more influential for the female burial respondents [ $M = 2.43$  for females vs.  $2.00$  for males;  $t = 2.36$ ,  $p < .05$ ]. These results suggest that females are relatively more concerned about cost factors in final arrangements than are males. Further research with larger and equal sized samples is needed to verify these results. Burial respondents reported that final arrangements for the deceased were influenced more strongly by factors such as religion, family, and funeral personnel than was the case for cremation respondents.

### Some Gender Differences

Although there was no overall association between the respondent gender and the choice for cremation or burial, there were some significant gender differences within the cremation sample. Female cremation respondents reported being significantly closer to the deceased than did males [ $M = 4.30$  vs.  $4.01$ ;  $t = 3.25$ ,  $p < .001$ ] and after the death, females contacted others significantly more often than male respondents [ $M = 3.03$  vs.  $2.73$ ;  $t = 2.90$ ,  $p < .01$ ]. These gender differences were not significant for the burial sample.

Male cremation respondents also reported significantly higher grief adjustment scores [ $29.47$  vs.  $27.80$ ;  $t = 2.68$ ,  $p < .01$ ] and grief resolution scores [ $41.63$  vs.  $37.88$ ,  $t = 4.01$ ,  $p < .001$ ] than did females. This pattern of gender differences in grief adjustment and resolution was also evident for the burial sample. Such

differences appear to reflect the established fact that females tend to report more emotionality than do males.

### Use of Final Arrangements

In terms of outcomes of the choice for cremation, the survey results indicate that there are differences between cremation and burial in respect to the use of the final arrangement products and activities carried out for the deceased. Cremation resulted in significantly less use of the funeral home, church, and disposition site for services or ceremonies than was the case for burial. It also occurred with more use of a memorial service at a later date and with more cases where no services were reported. The survey indicated that flowers and monuments or markers were used as remembrances with cremations, but proportionately much less than when the choice of disposition was burial. There was more giving of medical or community donations in the name of the deceased after cremations than after burials, and less giving of religious donations. Viewing of the body and embalming were involved with cremations less than one third as often as with burials. Social gatherings after cremation occurred about one half as often as after burial.

There appears to be a wider variation in the combination of final arrangements which are carried out with cremation than with burial. Cremation respondents' comments indicated some varied and rather unique arrangements:

...his wish was to be cremated with ashes strewn at sea from a Naval Aircraft Carrier. I depended on the Navy to carry out my husband's wishes and they did a superb job. (Widow of Naval Officer.)

...he was buried at sea. I'm going to put a marker in the Military Cemetery in San Diego. (Widow of retired serviceman.)

...we both wished to be cremated, however we agreed that the one who passed away first would have "temporary" earth burial. When the second dies, the first would be exhumed so we could be cremated together. Her grave is a shrine to me, I visit her every day when I'm in town. (72-year old widower)

My husband was cremated here (Arizona) and his remains sent directly to Ohio and interred in the family plot with graveside services. A month later we arranged a memorial service here. (54 year-old widow.)

...no service of any sort, no viewing, no notice in the newspaper. Both my parents had their wishes carried out completely, had paid for the funeral plans in advance---both were cremated after four months storage in a vault at the funeral home. I plan to follow the same procedures. (A 52 year-old surviving daughter.)

We were close friends for over 60 years. Cremation was her wish but I made the decision to have the urn with her ashes buried in her mother's grave--whom she loved very much. (74 year-old friend of deceased.)

I had the regular viewing and funeral services and then had his body taken to a crematorium where the ashes were stored. ...We shared a love for travel... the following summer I booked passage on our favorite cruise with a daughter and two grandchildren, arranged a private service with the Captain and we had our burial at sea, just where I know my husband would have liked it. (70 year-old widow.)

### Other Outcome Factors

In response to the direct questions regarding the choice of body disposition, the majority of respondents indicated that they would again choose the same form of body disposition for the deceased that had actually taken place and would also choose that method of disposition for themselves. Less than half, and proportionately fewer of the cremation than burial respondents, reported that they have a special place they go to when they want to remember the deceased, but an equally large majority of both samples reported keeping a particular possession of the deceased as a remembrance.

In regard to psychological outcome factors, the survey indicated that respondents from both body disposition groups were very satisfied with the final arrangements which had been carried out for the deceased. Both cremation and burial respondents reported contacting family and friends as frequently before as after the death and considered their adjustment to the loss of the deceased as being good. The cremation respondents did report slightly better, self-rated adjustment than the burial respondents. Measures of grief adjustment, grief resolution and depression confirmed these favorable, self-adjustment ratings for both groups. The long period (20 months on average) between the death and the data collection, however, may well have been a factor in the reported good, overall adjustment. There was a clear indication from survivor comments that for many of the respondents the experience of grief was debilitating, that depression was involved, that adjustment was difficult, and that grief resolution took time:

I really was not prepared for the deep sadness I felt about 3-6 months after my mother died...

My intense period of grief lasted just over a year and was the cause of divorce...my solace was in friends and family.

I'd often awake and think it had all just been a nightmare. Reality would only return when I'd turn on the light and see his empty bed.

During the past two years I have experienced a progression from the worst states you mentioned to my usual optimum levels...even though at first I thought I never could.

...that feeling of "What am I doing wrong that all the bad things are happening to me?" finally wore off.

My husband's death was unbelievable... the first 6-8 months were very sad for me.

For a while you continue to do some of the same things even when there is no point in it...

... you never get over it, never.

One question of interest is whether or not survivors show poorer adjustment to a death when cremation has been chosen and no formal, leave-taking service or ceremony takes place. There were 93 cremation respondents, 36 males and 57 females who reported cremation with no services or ceremonies. These respondents rated themselves as very close to the deceased ( $M = 4.00$ ), and as having good adjustment to the death ( $M = 4.00$ ). Further, they were no different from the other subjects in terms of their grief adjustment (29.70), grief resolution (40.28), and depression (4.98) scores. Thus, the results of the survey do not support the hypothesis that cremation without services or ceremonies leads to poorer adjustment to a death. Perhaps the overall good adjustment is primarily a function of the fact that the next of kin carried out the wishes of the deceased and this may be the most important variable in grief adjustment that is related to final arrangements. Preference of the deceased was reported to have much influence on the decision for cremation without services. (The average score for influence of the deceased on the combined aspects of final arrangement for this group was 4.16.) All of the other factors were rated as having somewhat less influence on final arrangements for this group than they had for the cremation sample as a whole.

#### General Information on Death and Dying

Cremation respondents rated the general value of discussion of death and dying somewhat higher than did burial respondents and both samples valued such discussion as a help in preparing for the loss of a loved one through death. A higher proportion of cremation than burial respondents felt terminally ill persons should be told of their condition and encouraged to talk about dying. Cremation respondents reported that they would most likely attend a talk on death and dying given by a survivor while burial respondents were most likely to attend a talk given by a clergyman. The

majority of all respondents did not support the idea of a public service to assist in final arrangements but did think that it was worthwhile for the public to have more information about the variety of final arrangements which are available.

In terms of importance of various factors in making final arrangements, preference of the deceased was the most important factor cited by both cremation and burial respondents, and it was rated significantly higher by cremation respondents. Preference of close survivors was also rated as very important by the two groups. Cost, convenience, condition of the body, and concern for land use were all thought to be moderately important by cremation respondents, while social or community tradition were not thought to be very important. Burial respondents rated all of these factors as being more important for final arrangements than did the cremation respondents. Thus, as a group, burial respondents appear to be more affected than cremation respondents by the multiple factors involved with the choice of body disposition. The burial group attributed greater importance to final arrangement factors, in general, and indicated that multiple factors had more influence in their personal experiences with final arrangements.

#### Metropolitan Area Effects

The survey was designed to include respondents from six metropolitan areas so that no one region of the nation would unduly influence the results. In most respects, the metropolitan area samples were similar to one another such that area differences neither dominated nor diminished the findings based on the combined metropolitan samples. When possible, analyses of the independence of the variables with respect to metropolitan areas were carried out and significant findings that were obtained are included in the results section. Some of these findings, of course, may reflect sampling differences rather than existing and underlying differences among the areas but in other instances they may reflect real differences in the characteristics among the metropolitan areas. Tables containing the results from the six areas should be referred to when considering the possible meaning of the various metropolitan area effects which were obtained.

#### Survey Technique

In conclusion, a few points should be made regarding the mail survey technique that was employed in "Project Understanding." The 40% return rate for a survey dealing with such a sensitive and personal topic, while acceptable, is still lower than optimal for extensive analyses of the return. There is no information from the 60%



nonresponders that might have affected the results. One subject reported "This questionnaire was not easy for me to fill out, as it renewed some heartbreaking memories." And another said, "...I wasn't going to send this in, but maybe it will help someone else." One can wonder how many respondents may have had similar reactions and did not mail in the questionnaire. Mail survey research techniques that involve more aggressive follow-up for nonresponders, of course, may be inappropriate for research on the loss experience. Although more costly, further research of this type might include some form of personal, follow-up contact in an attempt to assess a sample of nonresponders. The majority of respondent comments, both positive and negative, related to individual experiences, and many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share these experiences. These comments dealt with particular ways that respondents coped with the death, mentioning the values of family, clergy, work and social activity, and organizations such as widow groups, hospice, and volunteer programs.

Even with the cooperation from the National Research and Information Center, professional funeral associations, and cooperating funeral establishments, it was not possible to obtain sufficiently large subject lists to allow for the desired stratified sampling. In this study, there was also little control that was possible over the selection of subjects made by the cooperating funeral professionals. There is a need to employ more standardized procedures in future studies for obtaining subjects in research of this type. It might be possible, for instance, with more planning and organization to have a larger group of cooperating funeral and crematory personnel identify and supply more and larger lists of survivors. The experience with the present survey could well provide some helpful clues as to how to accomplish this.

In general, embedding the questionnaire seeking information about cremation within a request for reactions relating to the loss experience in general was successful in obtaining an equal return rate from subjects involved with both cremation and burial. Therefore, it does not appear to be necessary to over-sample cremation subjects in order to assure equal representation of the two groups if this approach is used. However, when funding resources impose limits on the number of subjects that can be sampled, careful consideration must be given the extent of sampling that is possible and the amount of information that it is reasonable to try to obtain. The "Project Understanding" questionnaire requested a large amount of information and, even though the items were fairly simple for respondents to complete, it may have been too long for obtaining maximum returns.

Finally, in order to obtain more discriminating information on the psychological variables associated with the choice of cremation, it may be necessary to have a shorter time period between the death of a loved one and the time when information about these factors is collected. Whether or not the mail survey approach for the study of the loss experience would be effective when shorter time periods are involved is not certain. The complexity of an objective investigation of the loss experience is well expressed by one respondent who commented, "I recognize the advantages of being able to record a clear-cut yes or no, but relationships are very complex, feelings following a death are a reflection of all that has gone on before and are not understood by a simple quantification."

The present study, with its responses from over 700 survivors of loss through death, supports the belief that the mail survey approach can contribute important information on this sensitive topic. Many helpful comments relative to the carrying out of this survey were made on the comment page and the majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to contribute additional information if it were needed. "Project Understanding" has contributed to developing a better understanding of the loss experience by contributing valuable information about the multiple antecedents and outcomes of the choice of cremation.

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## APPENDIX A

### Project Understanding Questionnaire

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# **PROJECT UNDERSTANDING**

**A NATIONAL SURVEY DEDICATED TO DEVELOPING A  
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LOSS EXPERIENCE**

**GERAS CENTER - UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

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**PLEASE READ:**

**PROJECT UNDERSTANDING** is a national survey dedicated to the development of a better understanding of the many factors that are involved in the loss of a loved one through death. Obtaining information and opinions directly from persons like you, who are survivors of such a loss, will help us to improve programs and services in the area of death and bereavement.

Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. Instructions are given for each section, and it should take you about thirty minutes to complete. Every section will contribute valuable information about the loss experience and all information will be completely anonymous.

Filling out this questionnaire may bring back memories and it is understandable that you may experience some feelings of sadness. If you become too distressed, simply set the questionnaire aside until you feel ready to continue at a later time. Remember that information regarding YOUR experiences, feelings and opinions are vital to this survey. We ask that you complete and return the questionnaire at your earliest convenience, preferably within a week. If you have any questions, contact Grace D. Dawson, Coordinator, PROJECT UNDERSTANDING GERAS Center, G170 Memorial Library, University of Notre Dame, (Area Code 219) 239-5289.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Funding for this survey allows for questionnaires to be sent to only a limited number of persons in each region of the country so that your participation is very important. If you choose not to participate, please return the blank questionnaire and you will not be contacted further. Thank you very much for your cooperation with PROJECT UNDERSTANDING!

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General Instruction Page  
Subject Code Number Written on Blank Line

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PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND COMPLETE ALL ITEMS IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IS IMPORTANT AND WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS. PLEASE ANSWER EVERY QUESTION TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY AND DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEM UNANSWERED.

In this section, we would like to know what you think about the relatively new approach to dealing with death and dying which encourages the discussion of these topics more openly in our society. Please read the following questions and place an X in front of the one choice which best represents your opinion.

In your opinion, of what value is it to have more open discussion about death and dying in our society?

1. \_\_\_ no value 2. \_\_\_ little value 3. \_\_\_ moderate value 4. \_\_\_ much value 5. \_\_\_ very much value

Of what value do you think more open discussion about death and dying would be in preparing persons to cope with the loss of a loved one through death?

1. \_\_\_ no value 2. \_\_\_ little value 3. \_\_\_ moderate value 4. \_\_\_ much value 5. \_\_\_ very much value

Do you think most terminally ill persons should be told that they are dying? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No 3. \_\_\_ Don't Know

Do you think it is good to encourage a terminally ill person to talk about dying? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No 3. \_\_\_ Don't Know

Which of the following talks about death and dying would you be most likely to attend? A talk on death and dying which was given by a:

1. \_\_\_ funeral director 2. \_\_\_ doctor/nurse 3. \_\_\_ clergyman 4. \_\_\_ counselor/social worker 5. \_\_\_ survivor

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General Information Items



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Please complete this questionnaire with regard to the closest loved one who died between January, 1983 and January, 1985. This section will contribute information on factors related to the loss experience. Put an X in front of one choice for each question.

Please indicate what your relationship was to the person who died. The deceased was my:

1. \_\_\_ spouse 2. \_\_\_ parent 3. \_\_\_ child 4. \_\_\_ grandparent 5. \_\_\_ other relative 6. \_\_\_ friend 7. \_\_\_ other

How would you rate the closeness of your personal relationship with the deceased? Our personal relationship was:

1. \_\_\_ not at all close 2. \_\_\_ not very close 3. \_\_\_ moderately close 4. \_\_\_ very close 5. \_\_\_ extremely close

Do you contact mutual friends and relatives more or less frequently now than you did before this person died?

1. \_\_\_ much less 2. \_\_\_ a little less 3. \_\_\_ about the same 4. \_\_\_ a little more 5. \_\_\_ much more

Had you ever discussed death and dying with the deceased? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

Is there any particular place that you go when you want to remember the deceased? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

Is there a particular possession you keep as a remembrance of the deceased? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

In your opinion, how would you rate your present adjustment to the death of this person?

1. \_\_\_ very poor 2. \_\_\_ poor 3. \_\_\_ adequate 4. \_\_\_ good 5. \_\_\_ very good

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Relationship, Discussion, Remembrance  
and Self-Adjustment Items

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It will be helpful to have information about the different kinds of arrangements with which survivors of a loss through death have had experience. In this section, please read each of the following 34 items and put an X in front of EVERY arrangement or request which you know, or believe, was carried out in regard to the person who died.

Place of services or ceremonies Place an X in front of every place where a service or ceremony was held:

1. \_\_\_ funeral home 2. \_\_\_ church 3. \_\_\_ chapel of cemetery or crematory 4. \_\_\_ at graveside or at cremation  
5. \_\_\_ private home 6. \_\_\_ other 7. \_\_\_ memorial service at later date 8. \_\_\_ no services or ceremonies were held

Flowers, donations, and monuments/markers Place an X in front of every remembrance used:

9. \_\_\_ flowers from family 10. \_\_\_ flowers from others 11. \_\_\_ family requested no flowers 12. \_\_\_ religious donation  
13. \_\_\_ medical donation (for example, heart fund, hospice) 14. \_\_\_ community donation (for example, center, charity)  
15. \_\_\_ monument/marker at place of disposition (for example, grave, niche) 16. \_\_\_ monument/marker other location  
17. \_\_\_ no monument/marker 18. \_\_\_ name on memorial listing (e.g., church, school, work) 19. \_\_\_ other remembrance

Visiting, viewing, and disposition of the body Place an X in front of every activity carried out:

20. \_\_\_ visiting, with viewing of body 21. \_\_\_ visiting, body present but no viewing 22. \_\_\_ visiting, body absent  
23. \_\_\_ private viewing only 24. \_\_\_ social gathering after disposition (e.g., open house) 25. \_\_\_ body embalmed  
26. \_\_\_ body donated to medical center 27. \_\_\_ organs donated (e.g., eyes, kidneys) 28. \_\_\_ earth burial of body  
29. \_\_\_ above ground entombment (e.g., crypt) 30. \_\_\_ cremation, burial of ashes 31. \_\_\_ cremation, ashes in niche  
32. \_\_\_ cremation, ashes not claimed 33. \_\_\_ cremation, ashes strewn 34. \_\_\_ cremation, ashes to family
- 

Final Arrangement Check-List

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In this section, we would like you to indicate how much influence you think that the following factors had on the final arrangements for the deceased. First, put an X under the heading which best describes the amount of influence these factors had on the *type and place of services or ceremonies held* (e.g., religious or non-religious, at funeral home, church, chapel, graveside):

Influence on Type and Place of Services or Ceremonies Held

<u>Factor</u>	<u>No Influence</u>	<u>Little Influence</u>	<u>Moderate Influence</u>	<u>Much Influence</u>	<u>Very Much Influence</u>
Preference of deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Your preference:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cause of death:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Religious tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Family tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Funeral home personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cemetery/crematory personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clergy/religious counselor:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other family members:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Keeping expenses low:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Influence Ratings  
Type and Place of Services

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Next, put an X under the heading which best describes the amount of influence these factors had on *the ways that the deceased was remembered* (e.g., flowers, fund donations, monuments, memorial lists):

Influence on Ways that the Deceased was Remembered

<u>Factor</u>	<u>No Influence</u>	<u>Little Influence</u>	<u>Moderate Influence</u>	<u>Much Influence</u>	<u>Very Much Influence</u>
Preference of deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Your preference:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cause of death:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Religious tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Family tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Funeral home personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cemetery/crematory personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clergy/religious counselor:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other family members:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Keeping expenses low:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Influence Ratings  
Ways Deceased was Remembered

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Next, put an X under the heading which best describes the amount of influence these factors had on the *method of disposition of the deceased* (e.g., burial of body, cremation, donation of body):

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Influence on Method of Disposition of the Deceased</u>				
	<u>No Influence</u>	<u>Little Influence</u>	<u>Moderate Influence</u>	<u>Much Influence</u>	<u>Very Much Influence</u>
Preference of deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Your preference:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cause of death:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Religious tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Family tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Funeral home personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cemetery/crematory personnel:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Clergy/religious counselor:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other family members:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Keeping expenses low:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

---

Influence Ratings  
Method of Disposition of the Deceased

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In this section we would like to know how satisfied you were with the arrangements for the deceased, both at the time they occurred, and at the present time. On this page, put an X under the heading which indicates how satisfied you were with the following aspects of the funeral *at the time they occurred*. Try to recall your feelings about these activities at that time.

**Satisfaction at the Time They Occurred**

<u>Arrangement</u>	<u>Not At All Satisfied</u>	<u>Not Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Completely Satisfied</u>
Type of services/ceremonies:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Place of services/ceremonies:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Method of disposition of the deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall attendance at activities:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall cost of arrangements:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Service from funeral home/crematory:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Indicate satisfaction with the following or satisfaction with their omission, whichever applies:

Presence of flowers, or their omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Able to visit/view body, or its omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Donation funds listed, or their omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Monument/marker used, or its omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Satisfaction Level

Time Arrangement Occurred

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Next, put an X under the heading which indicates how satisfied you are *at the present time* with the following aspects of the funeral arrangements for the deceased. You could be more or less satisfied than before, or feel the same about these arrangements.

<u>Arrangement</u>	<u>Satisfaction at the Present Time</u>				
	<u>Not At All Satisfied</u>	<u>Not Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Completely Satisfied</u>
Type of services/ceremonies:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Place of services/ceremonies:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Method of disposition of the deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall attendance at activities:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall cost of arrangements:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Service from funeral home/crematory:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Indicate satisfaction with the following or satisfaction with their omission, whichever applies:

Presence of flowers, or their omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Able to visit/view body, or its omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Donation funds listed, or their omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Monument/marker used, or its omission:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

---

Satisfaction Level

Time of Responding

---

This section contains groups of statements that provide information that will be helpful in understanding differences among survivors. Please read each group of statements, then pick out the one statement in each group which best describes the way you have been feeling *during the past week (including today!)* Circle the LETTER beside the statement you have chosen. Be sure to read all the statements in each group before making your choice.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. a--I do not feel sad.<br>b--I feel sad.<br>c--I am sad all the time and I can't snap out of it.<br>d--I am so sad or unhappy that I can't stand it.   | 5. a--I don't feel particularly guilty.<br>b--I feel guilty a good part of the time.<br>c--I feel guilty most of the time.<br>d--I feel guilty all of the time.   |
| 2. a--I am not particularly discouraged about the future.<br>b--I feel discouraged about the future.<br>c--I feel I have nothing to look forward to.<br>d--I feel the future is hopeless and that things cannot improve. | 6. a--I don't feel I am being punished.<br>b--I feel I may be punished.<br>c--I expect to be punished.<br>d--I feel I am being punished.  |
| 3. a--I do not feel like a failure.<br>b--I feel I have failed more than the average person.<br>c--As I look back on my life, all I can see is a lot of failure.<br>d--I feel I am a complete failure as a person.       | 7. a--I don't feel disappointed in myself.<br>b--I am disappointed in myself.<br>c--I am disgusted with myself.<br>d--I hate myself.  |
| 4. a--I get as much satisfaction out of things as I used to.<br>b--I don't enjoy things the way I used to.<br>c--I don't get real satisfaction out of anything anymore.<br>d--I am dissatisfied or bored with everything | 8. a--I don't feel I am any worse than anyone else.<br>b--I am critical of myself for my weaknesses or faults.<br>c--I blame myself all the time for my faults.<br>d--I blame myself for everything bad that happens. |
|  | 9. a--I don't cry any more than usual.<br>b--I cry more now than I used to.<br>c--I cry all the time now.<br>d--I used to be able to cry, but now I can't cry even though I want to.                                  |
- 

Depression Score Items



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**This page is continued from the previous page. Be sure to read all of the statements in each group before making your choice.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 10. a--I am no more irritated now than I ever am.<br>b--I get annoyed or irritated more easily than I used to.<br>c--I feel irritated all the time now.<br>d--I don't get irritated at all by the things that used to irritate me.          | 14. a--I can work about as well as I used to.<br>b--It takes extra effort to get started at doing something.<br>c--I have to push myself very hard to do anything.<br>d--I can't do any work at all.  |
| 11. a--I have not lost interest in other people.<br>b--I am less interested in other people than I used to be.<br>c--I have lost most of my interest in other people.<br>d--I have lost all of my interest in other people.                 | 15. a--I can sleep as well as usual.<br>b--I don't sleep as well as I used to.<br>c--I wake up 1-2 hours earlier than usual and find it hard to get back to sleep.<br>d--I wake up several hours earlier than I used to and cannot get back to sleep. |
| 12. a--I make decisions about as well as I ever could.<br>b--I put off making decisions more than I used to.<br>c--I have greater difficulty in making decisions than before.<br>d--I can't make decisions at all anymore.                  | 16. a--I don't get more tired than usual.<br>b--I get tired more easily than I used to.<br>c--I get tired from doing almost nothing.<br>d--I am too tired to do anything.   |
| 13. a--I don't feel I look worse than I used to.<br>b--I am worried that I am looking old or unattractive.<br>c--I feel that there are permanent changes in my appearance that make me look unattractive.<br>d--I believe that I look ugly. | 17. a--My appetite is no worse than usual.<br>b--My appetite is not as good as it used to be.<br>c--My appetite is much worse now.<br>d--I have no appetite at all anymore.   |

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Depression Score Items

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Continued from previous page.

18. a--I haven't lost much weight, if any, lately.  
b--I have lost more than 5 pounds.  
c--I have lost more than 10 pounds.  
d--I have lost more than 15 pounds.
19. I am purposely trying to lose weight  
by eating less:  
a--Yes  
b--No
20. a--I am no more worried about my health  
than usual.  
b--I am worried about physical problems such  
as aches and pains or upset stomach  
or constipation.  
c--I am very much worried about my physical  
problems and its hard to think of much else.  
d--I am so worried about my physical problems  
that I cannot think about anything else.

In this part, think back to the time when your loved one died. Read the following statements and after each one put an X under the heading which best indicates your feelings at that time.

	Completely <u>True</u>	Mostly <u>True</u>	Partly True, <u>Partly False</u>	Mostly <u>False</u>	Completely <u>False</u>
After the deceased died I found it hard to get along with people.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I found it hard to work well after the deceased died.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
After the deceased's death I lost interest in my family, friends, and outside activities.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I felt a need to do things the deceased wanted to do.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I was unusually irritable after the deceased died.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I was angry that the deceased left me.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I found it hard to sleep after the deceased died.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Depression Score Items

Grief Adjustment Items

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Now read the following statements and put an X under the heading which best indicates your feelings about the death of the deceased *at the present time*. Do not look back to the items that you just answered.

	Completely <u>True</u>	Mostly <u>True</u>	Partly True, <u>Partly False</u>	Mostly <u>False</u>	Completely <u>False</u>
I still cry when I think of the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I still get upset when I think about the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I cannot believe that this person is dead.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Most of the time I miss the deceased very much.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Even now it's painful to recall memories of the deceased..	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I am preoccupied with thoughts (often think) about the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I would hide my tears if I cry about the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
No one will ever take the place in my life of the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I feel it's unfair that the deceased died.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Things and people around me still remind me of the the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
I am unable to accept the death of the deceased.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Grief Resolution Items

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**This section deals with information which will contribute to understanding different factors involved in final arrangements. Put an X in front of your choice for each question.**

About how long was the deceased ill or disabled before he/she died, or was death totally unexpected?

1. ☐ unexpected 2. ☐ less than a week 3. ☐ a week to a month 4. ☐ 1-6 months 5. ☐ more than 6 months

Where did the death occur? 1. ☐ hospital 2. ☐ home 3. ☐ health center/nursing home 4. ☐ other location

Had the deceased ever expressed a preference for cremation? 1. ☐ Yes 2. ☐ No 3. ☐ Don't Know

Were any arrangements for the deceased contracted for before he/she died? 1. ☐ Yes 2. ☐ No 3. ☐ Don't Know

Did the deceased make any prearrangements with a Memorial Society? 1. ☐ Yes 2. ☐ No 3. ☐ Don't Know

If the decision could be made again, which method of disposition would you choose for the deceased? 1. ☐ burial 2. ☐ cremation 3. ☐ body donation

If you were making advance arrangements for yourself, which method of body disposition would you choose?

1. ☐ burial 2. ☐ cremation 3. ☐ body donation 4. ☐ no preference, choice to be made by others

Put a check in front of every organ, if any, you would donate, if you were making advance arrangements for yourself.

1. ☐ eyes 2. ☐ kidneys 3. ☐ liver 4. ☐ lung 5. ☐ heart 6. ☐ would not donate any organs

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Illness, Prearrangement, Choice Items

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In this section, **put an X under the heading** which best describes how important you think the following factors are when making final arrangements for a deceased person.

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Not Very Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Extremely Important</u>
Preferences of deceased:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Preferences of close survivors:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Costs of arrangements:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social/community tradition:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Convenience/efficient arrangements:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Appearance of body at death:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Deterioration of body after death:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Concern for use of land:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Would you favor a public service to assist people in making (not in financing) final arrangements? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

Do you think you would use such a service if you had to make final arrangements for someone? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

Do you think that it would be valuable for the public to have access to more information about the variety of final arrangements which can be made for a deceased person? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

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General Importance Ratings  
Public Service, Information Items

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The information in this section is necessary for making proper use of the survey material. Remember that all information is anonymous. Please complete all of the following items about YOURSELF. Put an X in front of the most appropriate choice for each item.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: 1. \_\_\_ male 2. \_\_\_ female

Racial/Ethnic Group: 1. \_\_\_ white 2. \_\_\_ black 3. \_\_\_ Hispanic 4. \_\_\_ Asian 5. \_\_\_ Native American 6. \_\_\_ other

Presently live: 1. \_\_\_ alone 2. \_\_\_ with spouse and/or other family 3. \_\_\_ in group/shared residence 4. \_\_\_ other

Marital status: 1. \_\_\_ married 2. \_\_\_ widowed 3. \_\_\_ single, never married 4. \_\_\_ divorced or separated

Education: 1. \_\_\_ none 2. \_\_\_ some grade school 3. \_\_\_ some high school 4. \_\_\_ high school graduate

5. \_\_\_ trade/vocational school 6. \_\_\_ up to 2 years college 7. \_\_\_ over 2 years college 8. \_\_\_ college graduate

Religious Preference: 1. \_\_\_ Catholic 2. \_\_\_ Protestant 3. \_\_\_ Jewish 4. \_\_\_ Other 5. \_\_\_ None

Attend church/religious events approximately: 1. \_\_\_ more than 2 times a week 2. \_\_\_ 1-2 times/week

3. \_\_\_ 2-4 times/month 4. \_\_\_ 6-10 times/year 5. \_\_\_ 2-6 times/year 6. \_\_\_ less than 2 times/year

Type of employment, last regular job: 1. \_\_\_ professional/educational/executive 2. \_\_\_ supervisory/managerial

3. \_\_\_ clerical/sales 4. \_\_\_ technical/crafts 5. \_\_\_ farm/factory/labor 6. \_\_\_ homemaker 7. \_\_\_ other

Estimated family income: 1. \_\_\_ less than \$10,000/year 2. \_\_\_ \$10,001 to \$20,000/year

3. \_\_\_ \$20,001 to \$40,000/year 4. \_\_\_ \$40,001 to \$60,000 5. \_\_\_ more than \$60,000/year

If necessary, may we contact you in the future for additional information? 1. \_\_\_ Yes 2. \_\_\_ No

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Respondent Information Page

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Please provide the information requested below regarding the DECEASED. Answer each item to the best of your knowledge. If you are not sure of an answer, give your best guess.

Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_ Age at death: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: 1. \_\_\_ male 2. \_\_\_ female

Cause of death: 1. \_\_\_ heart disorder 2. \_\_\_ cancer 3. \_\_\_ other physical disorder 4. \_\_\_ accident 5. \_\_\_ suicide

Racial/Ethnic Group: 1. \_\_\_ white 2. \_\_\_ black 3. \_\_\_ Hispanic 4. \_\_\_ Asian 5. \_\_\_ Native American 6. \_\_\_ other

Last residence, lived: 1. \_\_\_ alone 2. \_\_\_ with spouse/family 3. \_\_\_ in group facility or nursing home 4. \_\_\_ other

Marital status: 1. \_\_\_ married 2. \_\_\_ widowed 3. \_\_\_ single, never married 4. \_\_\_ divorced or separated

Education: 1. \_\_\_ none 2. \_\_\_ some grade school 3. \_\_\_ some high school 4. \_\_\_ high school graduate

5. \_\_\_ trade/vocational school 6. \_\_\_ up to 2 years college 7. \_\_\_ over 2 years college 8. \_\_\_ college graduate

Religious Preference: 1. \_\_\_ Catholic 2. \_\_\_ Protestant 3. \_\_\_ Jewish 4. \_\_\_ Other 5. \_\_\_ None

Attend church/religious events approximately: 1. \_\_\_ less than 2 times /year 2. \_\_\_ 2-6 times/year

3. \_\_\_ 6-10 times/year 4. \_\_\_ 2-4 times/month 5. \_\_\_ 1-2 times/week 6. \_\_\_ more than twice a week

Type of employment, last regular job: 1. \_\_\_ professional/educational/executive 2. \_\_\_ supervisory/managerial

3. \_\_\_ clerical/sales 4. \_\_\_ technical/crafts 5. \_\_\_ farm/factory/labor 6. \_\_\_ homemaker 7. \_\_\_ other

Estimated family income: 1. \_\_\_ less than \$10,000/year 2. \_\_\_ \$10,001 to \$20,000/year

3. \_\_\_ \$20,001 to \$40,000/year 4. \_\_\_ \$40,001 to \$60,000 5. \_\_\_ more than \$60,000/year

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Deceased Information Page

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On this page, please write in any comments that you wish to make or add any additional information which you think will be helpful to this survey. Thank You.

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Comment Page



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

When you return this questionnaire your name and address are deleted from our records and no further contact will be made without your consent. All information will remain anonymous and will be used for research purposes only. PROJECT UNDERSTANDING meets professional standards of confidentiality and use of survey information. The survey is being conducted by The Center for Gerontological Education, Research and Services of the University of Notre Dame. For more information please contact PROJECT UNDERSTANDING at G170 Memorial Library, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

## APPENDIX B

Project Understanding Letters

Subject List Forms

# PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

GERAS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

G170 MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

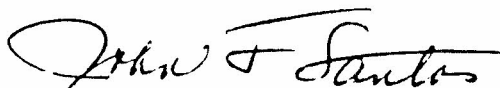
We are writing to you to ask for your help. PROJECT UNDERSTANDING is a national survey being conducted by the Center for Gerontological Education, Research and Services (GERAS) of the University of Notre Dame to gain a better understanding of the many ways that people are affected by the loss of a loved one through death. We are concerned about the serious lack of knowledge in our society regarding the many factors and decisions facing close survivors when a loved one dies.

According to information from a national organization interested in the study of loss and bereavement, you are a close survivor of a person who has died between January, 1983 and January, 1985. Across the nation, people like yourself are being asked about their loss experiences to provide more information to guide the development of programs and services for those who must endure such losses in the future. You can help us in this effort.

Hopefully, you can appreciate how valuable it would be to develop a better understanding of the loss experience and will agree to take part in this survey. To participate, we ask that you fill out the enclosed survey questionnaire in the next few days and return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. You should not include any names, since all of the information will be anonymous. The questionnaire should take about thirty minutes to complete.

We know that some people are hesitant about participating in surveys, but we urge you to consider that only people like yourself who have experienced the loss of a loved one can give us the first-hand knowledge that is needed. It is your personal experiences and opinions that can help guide us to a better understanding of the many different effects of such loss. Please help us in this worthwhile project by filling out and returning the survey questionnaire. If you choose not to participate, please return the blank questionnaire in the stamped envelope. You should contact us if you have any questions. We thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,



John F. Santos, PhD  
Director, GERAS Center

# PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

GERAS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

G170 MEMORIAL LIBRARY

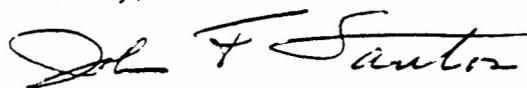
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

About a week ago we wrote to ask you to participate in PROJECT UNDERSTANDING, a national survey dedicated to a better understanding of the loss experience. If you have already filled out and returned the survey questionnaire, this letter is to thank you for your valuable contribution. The information you have shared with us will help guide the development of future programs and services relating to death, dying and bereavement. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet completed the survey questionnaire, this letter is to urge you to do so as soon as possible. As a close survivor of a loved one who has died, the information that you can give us will be valuable for others who must endure such losses in the future. Remember that all information will be anonymous. We need to hear from as many close survivors across the nation as possible but were able to send questionnaires to only a limited number of persons in each region, so your participation is very important. Please fill out and return the questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope which was provided. If you need another copy of the survey questionnaire, call us collect (Area Code 219) 239-5289, and we will send you another copy. If you choose not to participate, we ask that you please return the blank questionnaire and you will not be contacted further.

Thank you again for your cooperation with PROJECT UNDERSTANDING.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Santos".

John F. Santos, PhD  
Director, GERAS Center

# PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

GERAS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

G170 MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

About a month ago we wrote to ask you to participate in PROJECT UNDERSTANDING, a national survey to gain a better understanding of the many ways people are affected by the loss of a loved one through death. We are concerned that we have not yet received your survey questionnaire. This letter is being sent because of the significance that each questionnaire has for the success of this project. Since you are one of only a limited number of persons in the country selected to participate in the survey, it is particularly important that we receive your completed questionnaire.

Please consider how valuable the information that you can give us will be in helping others in the future. Across the nation, many close survivors who have experienced the death of a loved one between January, 1983 and January, 1985, have already completed the survey questionnaire to help guide the development of future programs and services for those who must endure such losses in the future. However, the most beneficial outcome of this study depends on our receiving as many questionnaires as possible. We especially need to hear from close survivors in your region.

Please fill out and return the survey questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope as soon as possible. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Remember that you should not include any names since all of the information will be anonymous. In the event that you might need another copy of the survey questionnaire, a replacement is enclosed. If you still choose not to participate, please return the blank questionnaire and we will not make any further contacts. Thank you again for your cooperation with PROJECT UNDERSTANDING.

Sincerely,



John F. Santos, PhD  
Director, GERAS Center

INFORMATION FOR  
NATIONAL STUDY OF CREMATIONS

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL STUDY OF  
FUNERALS WITH EARTH BURIAL

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT OF KIN

DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of next of kin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to deceased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of death

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip